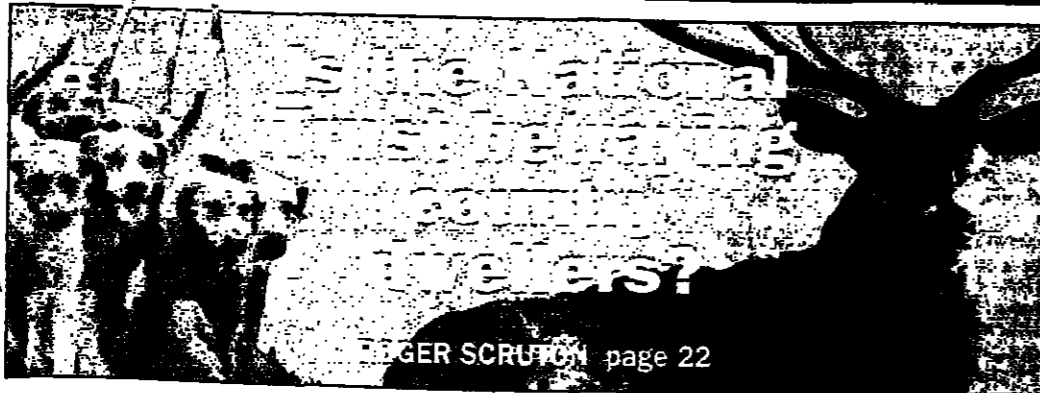


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No room at the top

TOMORROW Fantasy League

30p

EVERY WEEK DAY

Call for 'common economic roof'

EU socialists set out vision of harmony

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A MANIFESTO for a socialist Europe with more harmonised taxes and more closely shared economic policies, including higher public spending, was launched last night by Britain and the 10 other left-of-centre governments that now dominate the European Union.

The programme for "The New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of Monetary Union", calls itself a "set of common rules for the economic and social well-being of European citizens".

Although in drafting since early 1996, the release of the programme has taken on special force with the leftward swing in Europe since the election of Germany's Red-Green coalition in September.

Drafted partly by British officials, the manifesto blends New Labour-style rhetoric on reform with promises of closer budgetary and tax co-ordination that spring from the old-left socialists of Germany and France.

The goal of the new socialist Europe should be "strong and sustainable economic development and full employment", it says.

Among its more controversial demands is that the European Central Bank, the manager of the euro, should take into account the need for growth and not just stopping inflation, when it sets monetary policy.

Presenting the paper, Rudolf Edlinger, the Austrian Finance Minister, said the governments in monetary union were determined to push for more tax harmonisation, including higher taxes on capital and lower charges on wages.

Monetary union, which starts on January 1, would "make it imperative to start co-ordinating the sphere of taxation," he said. "The social-democratic governments will also have to look at harmonising prices and wage policy."

Herr Edlinger, whose country holds the current EU presidency, said the left-wing paper amounted to a "common economic roof...for a common house of Europe".

The manifesto is seen

British beef ban to be lifted today

The European Union embargo on British beef exports is expected to be lifted in Brussels today, allowing deboned beef to be sold abroad from February.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has also indicated that he hopes to lift the domestic ban on the sale of beef on the bone in February or March. Page 8

among continental left-wing parties as a vehicle that is being used by Britain to associate itself more closely with the 11 states that are about to embrace the euro.

The document was issued last night as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, met Cielak Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, and other socialist ministers ahead of the first session of the EU's economic chiefs since the German election greatly reinforced the left-wing tide in EU Government.

The first "Red Ecofin", as the new left-dominated council has been dubbed, is to start after a session of the Euro-11 group of single currency states, from which Mr Brown is excluded.

Today's Ecofin will see a first showdown between Britain - along with five other northern EU states that want to freeze the EU budget at the turn of the century - and the poorer southern nations, which are demanding a big rise in spending.

The Brussels Commission is pushing for a sharp rise in the current €60-billion-a-year budget, while Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and others are determined to keep the cash at current levels as a way of staunching their already heavy net contributions.

British spokesmen insisted that the *New European Way*, which was unchanged from a draft reported by *The Times* last week, amounted to no break with existing Labour policy. However, some British officials have made no secret of

their qualms over some of the detail. This is especially the case over taxation, where the Government has been trying to temper EU enthusiasm for stopping Governments indulging in "unfair" competition with excessively low charges in business and other fields.

The paper calls for "further efforts to be undertaken to avoid harmful tax competition among the member states". It also calls for international efforts to impose minimum taxes on savings income as a way of enabling the EU to impose its own, without driving capital out of the area.

The manifesto contains little echo of Germany's recent flirtation with the notion of breaking the sacred rules on budget deficits inside monetary union. But while calling for fiscal discipline, it says there must be flexibility over deficits to allow higher public spending during periods of economic downturn.

The manifesto contains no mention of a common wages policy, but Herr Edlinger's mention of the subject reflected a push now being led by Herr Lafontaine, for closer co-ordination of wage agreements across industry in the euro zone.

This would require the creation of some cross-border collective bargaining between employers and unions - an idea that would probably be anathema to the British Government.

The document has already been criticised as bland and insufficiently socialist by some Nordic, German and French officials of the left parties in the European parliament.

The drafters said it had to be fairly unambiguous if it was to embrace a camp that ranges from Tony Blair - who is seen as a virtual conservative in Paris and Bonn - to Massimo d'Alema, the former Communist leader who now runs Italy.

Tory Eurosceptics last night declared that the plan would lead to job losses and higher taxation. Michael Trend, the shadow spokesman on Europe, said: "The lurch to the left will increase taxes, hamper industry and destroy jobs in Britain and across Europe."



Jim Threapleton delights the crowd with a kiss for Kate Winslet after their wedding

Kate Winslet's secret comes out

BY ROBIN YOUNG

KATE WINSLET and Jim Threapleton were married yesterday at a parish church in front of coachloads of guests.

They had tried to keep the ceremony secret, but in the end a team of security guards had to be called in to guard All Saints' Church in Miss Winslet's home town of Reading.

The Oscar-winning Miss Winslet, 23, sped up to the church in a Mercedes with

blackout windows. She offered only a brief glimpse of her cream tassel gown and Asian-style headdress as she took the two steps into the church, followed by four attendants.

Mr Threapleton, a 25-year-old assistant film director, was standing at the altar awaiting his bride, watched by 150 guests and celebrities who had arrived on a fleet of coaches.

Fifty minutes later the beaming couple appeared at the

church door and kissed before walking along a makeshift corridor formed by guests who threw rose petals at their feet.

Mr Threapleton, wearing a blue collarless suit, mouthed: "She's my wife, she's my wife."

As the couple prepared to leave for the reception, the bride wound down the car window to ask for cigarettes. She then lit up and declared: "It has been a wonderful day. I am so happy to be married to Jim."

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Tortured man freed after family pay £17,000 ransom

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A BUSINESSMAN who was cleared of murder last month was freed yesterday after a 30-hour kidnap ordeal during which he was tortured by an armed gang demanding £100,000 ransom.

Charles Seiga, 58, was scalded, beaten and forced to make a series of telephone calls with a gun held to his head. He was freed when his brother handed over the second of two payments totalling £17,000.

Two men, aged 28 and 29, were arrested at a house in Wavertree, Liverpool, early yesterday and two guns seized.

Police believe that the kidnaping may have been connected to Mr Seiga's trial at which he was cleared of murdering George Bromley, 36, who organised nightclub doormen. Mr Bromley was shot as he dined at Mr Seiga's home in West Derby, Liverpool.



Charles Seiga with his student daughter Britt yesterday

som negotiations, there were suggestions that if the family could not come up with the cash, they could buy Mr Seiga's freedom with drugs. But senior police were anxious last night to damp down speculation that the kidnap was part of a Merseyside drugs war.

Mr Seiga's ordeal began when he was abducted by armed men when he went to buy a newspaper on Friday morning. His 22-year-old daughter Britt was expecting to go shopping with him later that day and the family grew alarmed at his absence.

Iraq backed down after British tip

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WITH a new confrontation looming over Iraq's refusal to turn over documents to United Nations weapons inspectors, it emerged yesterday that President Saddam Hussein backed down last time after a warning from Britain of devastating military strikes.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's UN Ambassador, delivered the ultimatum in a private meeting with Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's UN representative, on November 12. The disclosure should put to rest allegations that France tipped off Saddam to the impending US airstrikes, allowing him to reverse course on November 14.

Mohammed Saeed Sabah, Iraq's Foreign Minister, again rejected a UN Special Commission (Unscm) request yesterday for records about its weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad gamble, page 13

Defence Ministry staff face drug test demand

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

CIVIL servants at the Defence Ministry are likely to become the first Whitehall officials to face compulsory drug tests. The move, which is still under negotiation with the unions, would affect all MoD civil servants involved in "safety-critical areas" and would be imposed under a zero-tolerance regime. Anyone testing positive would face dismissal.

The recommendation to bring civil servants into line with the Services, which already have compulsory drug tests, was made by the ministry's career management department to Kevin Tebbit, the Permanent Under-Secretary.

The Army began random drug tests in January 1995, followed by the Royal Navy in April last year and the RAF from November 1 this year.

Although there is no evidence of a drugs problem among MoD civil servants, it was considered appropriate that officials who worked closely with the military should face the same tests as their uniformed colleagues.

There are 76,000 civil servants in the various defence establishments, including the Whitehall headquarters, but the proposal is that those who work with the military in areas such as weapons programmes and research should be subject to the same testing.

Although some companies are introducing drug tests for employees, Whitehall civil servants have remained immune and it is a highly sensitive issue. Civil Service trade unions have been studying the proposal since last month.

If the idea is approved, civil servants would be selected at random from a computer list of names and ordered to give urine samples.



Primary schools to bring back history

BY JOHN O'LEARY

COMPULSORY lessons in history, geography and the arts will reappear in junior schools when the national curriculum is revised in 2000.

At the moment the teaching of all but the core subjects - English, mathematics, science and information technology - is discretionary while teachers implement the Government's literacy and numeracy strategies. But critics have claimed that children are being denied the broad education guaranteed by the original curriculum - many are taught no history or geography at primary school.

History has become the focus of particular dissatisfaction because primary school lessons give many children their only secure grounding in their heritage. Secondary courses often concentrate on the 20th century and European history.

Recommendations for the revised curriculum, which will be considered by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority next month, lay down what children should learn in history, geography, music and art.

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Bar says US-style public defenders will be a 'calamity'

Frances Gibb reports on the controversy over Lord Irvine's new courts shake-up

THE Government is facing a head-on clash with the legal profession over plans which could lead to an American-style public defender system for criminal defence work.

The plans will be contained in its shake-up of the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme to be unveiled next week. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is expected to propose changes which would allow some criminal defence work to be contracted out to specialised panels of lawyers.

In the long term, this could lead to a public defender system employing salaried lawyers which would mean the end of a defendant's right to choose his own lawyer. The plans will be strenuously opposed by the Bar, which is already gearing up for a fight on the White Paper plans to

allow Crown prosecutors to conduct Crown Court cases.

A Bar spokesman said: "This would be an extreme calamity. We have no problem with contracts and with setting of standards - that can be made to work. But as far as any move towards a public defender system is concerned, we would fight it tooth and claw."

Geoff Hoon, a junior minister of state at the Lord Chancellor's Department, confirmed to *The Times* that the plans - now being piloted in Scotland - are in line with the Government's thinking for transforming the entire legal aid scheme into a system of Government contracts

with specialist, high-standard, lawyers. He said: "Prosecution work is already put out to preferred sets of chambers. We see no reason why criminal defence work should not also go to the best people in the field."

The Government wanted to look first at what was happening in Scotland. But, he said: "Clearly there are areas where we might want to test out salaried lawyers - either geographical [areas], or areas of work such as in the youth court."

A pilot scheme would be run in the youth court to ensure that the lawyers were specialist and appropriately qualified and had the sensi-

tivity for such cases. The forthcoming White Paper will provide for the groundwork.

The first stage will be to move criminal defence work over to contracts, which could mean that only lawyers who win those contracts can offer criminal defence work.

The Lord Chancellor told the Commons Home Affairs Committee recently that criminal defence work, including advocacy, would be brought under contract by 2003. All family work and legal advice on civil disputes is to be contracted by 2000.

The White Paper, *Access to Justice*, will herald the biggest shake-up of legal services for 50 years. The

legal aid scheme, created in 1949, will be dismantled in its present form and replaced by a community legal service run by lawyers and advice workers on contracts.

There will be a network of advice centres acting as a first port of call for the public and able to provide one-stop legal advice - often from specialist advisers who are not lawyers.

The White Paper is expected to place a statutory duty on the Legal Aid Board to assess need through regional legal services committees and then contract with advice centres and law firms to meet that need.

The current legal aid system does

not meet the needs of some of the poorest people in society, Mr Hoon said. "Our vision for a community legal service is a way of ensuring taxpayers' money reaches those who are in need of help - something the traditional system has failed to do."

The White Paper, to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech, will also provide for the scrapping of remaining restrictive practices in the law and in particular removal of the Bars near-monopoly in the higher courts.

These moves also will bring the Government into head-on confrontation with the Bar. But it is expected that in a move to deflect criticism from the judiciary, the final say on any changes to the legal profession and advocacy rights would have to be approved by Parliament.

Ashdown warns rivals against challenge

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN issued a sharp rebuke last night to any colleagues who may want to oust him from the party leadership, insisting that he was in no hurry to step down.

The Liberal Democrat leader dismissed as "rubbish" reports that he would be forced to resign if the Government failed to deliver on PR for the European elections in June or a referendum on electoral reform during this Parliament.

"My advice to those who are over eager to try on the crown is very simple - don't hold your breath," said Mr Ashdown, who has led the party for more than ten years.

Making clear that he was in no mood to fall victim to grumbling in the party ranks, he said: "I have some other things I want to do with the Liberal Democrats, and when I have done them I will stand down."

His comments follow reports that he may be under pressure to stand down next summer and suggestions that a campaign for his successor is already underway. The leading contenders at present are Charles Kennedy, Menzies Campbell, Simon Hughes and Nick Harvey.

Mr Ashdown has come under mounting pressure from within his party in recent weeks over Labour's failure to deliver on proportional representation. Last week's debate in the Lords, which has led to uncertainty about PR for the Euro-elections, has also undermined Mr Ashdown's position.

Several Liberal Democrat MPs were further incensed when they heard that Mr Ashdown had extended the co-operation pact with the Labour party. Yesterday Simon Hughes, one of Mr Ashdown's fiercest critics on the co-operation deal, called on the Government to bring back its European Election Bill as soon as possible. He said that the House of Lords may have to sit during the Christmas recess to get the reforms on the statute book in time for next year's elections.

He said that closer co-operation with his party depended on the Government delivering PR for the European elections in June. But Mr Ashdown refused to be drawn on the business timetable, merely emphasising that it was up to the Tories to drop their opposition to the Bill.

Ahern predicts united Ireland in his lifetime

Taoiseach's remarks in interview infuriate Unionists at a delicate moment, reports Martin Fletcher

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Taoiseach, last night predicted a constitutional referendum within 15 to 20 years, leading to a united Ireland within his lifetime.

His remarks infuriated Unionists at a very delicate moment in the peace process, and just four days before Tony Blair is to become the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish parliament.

The process is stalled over David Trimble's refusal to create an executive that includes Sinn Féin until the IRA begins disarmament. Mr Ahern and Northern Ireland's First Minister are hoping to give it new impetus by announcing six cross-border bodies within the next two weeks. But many of Mr Trimble's fellow Unionists see these bodies as a backdoor route to Irish unity.

Mr Ahern suggested unification could happen in a peaceful climate and with Unionist consent, but told Irish Radio: "I make no secret of the fact that I would hope that in the fullness of time people will see that it is working together on this island that will make more sense than looking to Westminster, and that they will take a decision to move away from that."

He agreed with his interviewer that there was an "irresistible dynamic" towards Irish unity. He forecast a constitutional referendum on the

issue within 15 to 20 years. He said he did not know how long he would live, but "I have said that I believe it will be in my lifetime... I do think it will happen."

Jeffrey Donaldson, an Ulster Unionist Party MP who opposes the Good Friday agreement, said Mr Ahern's comments showed the Irish Government "didn't regard the agreement as a settlement but only as an interim agreement towards their objective of a united Ireland."

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist Party's deputy leader, said Mr Ahern had revealed the real agenda behind the good Friday agreement. The Taoiseach "sees he has an agreement in place which is a mechanism to take him to a

united Ireland... I presume he thinks unionists are not prepared to fight their corner. But he has yet to see the full force of the will of the Unionist community."

Andrew Mackay, the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said Mr Ahern's comments were "not very helpful" at a time when the process was deadlocked by the IRA's refusal to disarm. "It's unfortunate that Mr Ahern felt it necessary to speak in this way. I hope this Irish leader, for whom I have a great respect, will return to being somewhat more circumspect in the future."

Mr Trimble and Mr Ahern met in Dublin late last week and are very close to agreeing the terms of the six cross-border bodies to be established under the Good Friday accord. Mr Trimble has insisted the bodies must be of demonstrable benefit to Northern Ireland, and will not dilute its identity.

Unionist sources also said yesterday that agreement on the bodies would have to be part of a package that would involve the nationalist SDLP agreeing to just seven seats in Northern Ireland's new executive in addition to those of Mr Trimble and his deputy, Seamus Mallon. The SDLP want 10, but Unionists say the lower number would save millions of pounds.



Linfield's Tony Gorman, No 8, and Cliftonville goal-scorer Tim McCann embrace after the I-I draw

Footballers kick off for peace

THE score was 1-1, but this was a game where the whole of Northern Ireland was the victor (Martin Fletcher writes).

For the first time since the onset of the Troubles, the police allowed Linfield, a South Belfast club with a big working-class Protestant following, to play an away game against predominantly Catholic Cliftonville in the heart of North Belfast's "killing fields" this weekend, and the occasion passed off almost without inci-

dent. Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, hailed the match as "another sign that Northern Ireland's sectarian wounds are healing". Bill McCoubrey, Linfield's chairman, called it "the first step on the road back to normality". And so it was, but the massive precautions taken by the police showed there was still a very long way to go.

So, Cliftonville's shabby and dilapidated stadium, juts from the dreary sea of red-brick terrace houses

where fully a fifth of the 3,300 killings of the Troubles took place. Linfield played there in the 1970 Irish Cup final. It won 2-1, but there was rioting after the game.

The RUC insisted this weekend's game began at 11am to minimise pre-match drinking and stop fans roaming the streets after dark. It limited the crowd to 1,500 instead of the 7,000 that would otherwise have attended. At the far end Cliftonville supporters had hung an Irish

tricolour, and a large white sheet reading "Cead Mile Failte" - "One Hundred Thousand Welcomes". The Linfield fans responded by hanging Union Jacks from the fencing erected to prevent missiles being thrown onto the pitch. "Fenian bastards" and "You know you are, you're British," they chanted. But the Cliftonville players lined up to applaud Linfield onto the pitch, and both teams punted free footballs to their opponent's supporters.

History lessons

Continued from page 1 between the ages of eight and eleven. But only the core subjects are prescribed in detail for younger children.

The review will see a reduction in the amount of ground to be covered throughout primary education so that teachers can focus on the basics and make room for new areas of the curriculum to be known as Preparation for Adult Life.

Historians and lobbyists for the other areas affected say that their subjects will be marginalised in the revised curriculum.

Professor Chris Wrigley, the chairman of the Historical Association, said: "Schools are spending the mornings on literacy and numeracy, when children are at their brightest

and most alert. History, if it is done at all, is left to the end of the afternoon and accorded little importance.

"Successful governments have expressed concern about boys switching off learning. We feel strongly that history has succeeded in capturing the imagination of young boys, so not to encourage it at primary level is extremely short-sighted."

Ministers are aiming to publish their proposals for the new curriculum in the spring, allowing time for consultation over the summer. Schools would then receive details of the new orders by the end of 1999 for implementation in September 2000.

Leading article, page 23



Ahern: infuriated Unionists with remark

Hague calls on Blair to sack Robinson

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday called on Tony Blair to sack Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, after the Tories published fresh allegations about his business affairs.

Mr Hague said that Mr Robinson's post was "completely untenable" and he should resign pending an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry into the issue.

A DTI spokesman said that he could neither confirm or deny Tory claims that the department was conducting an investigation. The spokesman insisted that the department

never commented on individuals or companies who may or may not be under investigation.

But David Heathcoat Amory, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, gave details of a letter from Peter Mandelson which he said confirmed that a possible breach of regulations was being considered by his department.

Mr Heathcoat Amory has now written to Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary questioning whether one minister should judge the conduct of another. "I am writing to seek clarification on whether it

is appropriate that one minister, in this case the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry should sit in judgment on another minister."

"I have received a reply from the Secretary of State on September 23 confirming that a breach of the Companies Act is under consideration by his department. In view of this, do you accept that the Paymaster General should stand down from office until the investigation is complete?"

The alleged offences concern incomplete or inaccurate records between 1988 and 1992.

Straw takes to the streets

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT



Straw: took to soap box for hour-long session

JACK STRAW has taken a stand for 'soap box' politics. In the era of the television soundbite, the Home Secretary resolutely clings to an earlier style of political campaigning.

Renowned in Whitehall for his determination to live life as normally as possible, the Home Secretary still lives in his South London family home and holds a regular open air meeting in the centre of his Blackburn constituency. And even on a bitterly cold Saturday morning with pre-Christmas shopping in full swing, the Home Secretary manages to draw a crowd of nearly 50 for an hour-long question and answer session.

Standing on a wooden bench outside Marks & Spencer, Mr Straw interlaces a three-minute address on Labour in government by pointing to members of the public who have gathered to listen to their MP. To one woman shivering against the cold, he calls: "You look perished, madam. I did not promise sunshine at the election but said we'd carry out our manifesto."

The first question was a gift, allowing him to play on the rivalry between Blackburn and Burnley. "Do you think Blackburn Rovers will win today?", shouted one man. "It would be nice for Rovers to win against Southampton. You look like a Burnley supporter to me." Mr Straw replied.

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فوائد من الأصل

Barney's charm is just a Net loss

Dominic Kennedy on how parents take revenge on children's favourite



Barney is snapped up at a London store yesterday: he is hard to damage

BARNEY the dinosaur, whose first British stage tour is attracting huge audiences of children, is the target of an Internet grudge campaign from parents infuriated by his saccharine antics.

The purple monster is the first children's craze of the e-mail age, so office workers rushing to their computer screens to vent their frustrations against the toddlers' favourite.

Barney, a cuddly *Tyrannosaurus rex* created in 1988 by a former Dallas schoolteacher Sheryl Leach, has become a marketing legend, inspiring endless spin-off products. In the United Kingdom, 20,000 children have joined his fan club in a year, he has sold 1.5 million videos, and became the best-selling soft toy in 1995 and 1996.

His programme *Barney & Friends*, a collection of songs, dances and insipid adventures featuring American children with fixed smiles, attracts six million viewers to its weekend slot on GMTV.

The mood is captured by the Barney song: "I love you, you love me, we're best friends as friends should be, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too?"

The hot ticket in nursery schools is Barney's Big Surprise, the theatre show which is touring Britain from Aberdeen to Wembley. This Christmas, the toy every parent dreads being asked to buy is a Microsoft interactive Barney, which talks, sings and moves, but costs £99.99. It can be triggered with signals from a video or computer, if parents splash out on the right booster packs at £49.99 each.

Fittingly, computers are being used to plot against Barney. There are new groups such as *alt.barney.dinosaur*, *die.die.die* and websites including *The Jihad to Destroy Barney on the Worldwide Web*, *Death to the Magenta Menace* and *Barney Doom*.

The *Barney Cookbook* website compiles recipes sent by e-mail from contributors throughout the Barney-afflicted world, which so far consists of 80 countries from Malaysia to Chile. For "Barney Flam-



This means war: one of the grudge websites

be", the list of ingredients reads "1 live barney, rum, a match".

The *Into The Purple Abyss* website has pastiches of celebrated stories, all given a Barney theme. They include *The red-Files*, *Day of the Barney* and a James Bond parody *Never Say I Love You Ever Again*. In each fantasy, Barney meets a different grisly end.

The least tasteful is *The Barney Fun Page*, an interactive game in which Barney is slowly obliterated using a choice of weapons activated by a computer keyboard.

The anti-Barney websites are remarkably popular. The *Barney Offline Page* has attracted 2,833,966 visitors. The *Top 38 Ways to Kill Barney the Dinosaur* is read by 400 people a day. "Donate his body to science - early" is one of the author's less graphic suggestions.

Copycat anti-Barney violence has spilled into real life. When Barney came to open a pharmacy in Massachusetts, a student tackled the dinosaur to the ground and tried to punch him back to the Stone Age.

The anti-Barney campaign has produced a backlash from families who appreciate his gentle fables advocating traditional values. The Pro-Barney WebRing, which describes itself as "a circle of love" was created when a mother and daughter surfed the Net for Barney.

"We were disappointed only to find numerous websites totally unsuitable for the eyes of children who have grown to love Barney," the mother has written.

Most of the 74 pages are websites about individual children, with pictures of their family, pets and favourite television characters.

Any attempts to destroy the real Barney toys are likely to meet with disappointment for adults. Microsoft claims they were "tumbled in a dryer for 12 hours, dropped from 6ft in 12 different positions, pulled by his appendages with up to 50 pounds of force and squeezed 25,000 times on his hands and feet". Sounds like they expected more hostility than a tantrum from a tot.

Comedy duo lead seasonal line-up

By Lisa Thomlinson

THE comedy duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders are teaming up for the first time in three years to top the bill of BBC Christmas Day comedy specials.

Their sketches, on BBC1, will include their own interpretation of behind-the-scenes moments in the making of the Hollywood movie *Titanic*. Meanwhile, *Rex the Runt*, a story about four dogs from the makers of *Wallace & Gromit*, will be one of the main attractions on BBC2.

Other more predictable festive offerings include *Men Behaving Badly*, who enjoy a family Christmas on BBC1, and the *EastEnders* Christmas special on BBC2, which shows the arrival of the Butcher's baby. Other programmes on BBC2 include *Fast Show* stars Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson in a new comedy romance called *Ted and Ralph*.

There will also be seasonal specials of *Birds Of A Feather*, *They Think It's All Over*, *Harry Enfield & Chums*, *Big Break*, *Noel Edmonds' Christmas Presents* and *Jan Davidson's Generation Game*. In addition, BBC1 will be screening *In Love With Elizabeth* - a glimpse of the early life of the Queen Mother.

Other highlights on BBC2 include *Bang, Bang! It's Reeves And Mortimer*, and the animated film *First Snow of Winter* features the voice of the late *Father Ted* star Dermot Morgan.

he was being pulled on his sleigh through Manor Drive. Craig Joseph, a spokesman for the Round Table, said: "Due to the unfortunate incidents over the last two years, we have decided that this year the route for the Santa run will bypass the Shelthorpe area."

"It is a shame because there were many people there who enjoyed our visit. But there are a minority of people who seem to think that shooting and throwing stones at Santa is more fun and they have spoiled the event for everyone else."

Last year the festive tour raised £3,995.18 - the highest figure so far - which has been distributed to numerous charities. The Loughborough Round Table's Santa Run, with its new route, will start on December 8.



French and Saunders taking on the Titanic

Children snub Father Christmas

Diana Blamires on the sad demise of the department store Santa

FATHER CHRISTMAS will be disappearing from half of his usual haunts this year because he is being ignored by the nation's children.

This year Santa will visit only one in ten shops compared with more than double that last year, according to a study by Deloitte and Touche.

Only one in 20 people expected to be attracted to a store this year by the prospect of meeting Santa. The report says: "Father Christmas's popularity has continued to decline."

Department stores which will do without a grotto this year include D H Evans in Oxford Street and House of Fraser in Carlisle, Cumbria.

Despite the reduction in the number of Santas appearing in shops there is a shortage of Father Christmases who fulfill the job requirements. James

Lovell, a partner of entertainment agency, The Ministry of Fun, which has 470 engagements for Santa in the run-up to Christmas, said: "Father Christmas lookalikes need to be over 40 and round. We have been getting too many young, thin men, and children would see through that."

Declining interest in Father Christmas has accounted for a disappointing response to the country's first training course for Santas. When Weston-super-Mare College advertised for the course only two people came forward. Kath Panes, the head of adult education, said: "Father Christmas seems less popular these days. It

could be because children are used to seeing so many Santas in red costumes and white beards that the novelty has worn off."

Harrods approached the college in search of the perfect Santa after hearing about the course but neither of the participants were available.

Louis has forced Santa Claus to cut out a housing estate in Leicestershire from his travels this Christmas. For the last two years, Loughborough Round Table's Santa has been shot at and pelted with stones while touring the Shelthorpe area of the city.

Last December an airgun pellet narrowly missed him as

And Fairy Liquid said: 'Let there be light this Christmas'

By Claudia Joseph

WHEN Chris Evans switches on the Christmas lights in Newcastle tomorrow, he could be forgiven for thinking he is launching a new improved brand of washing-up liquid.

For entwined among the glittering illuminations will be giant advertising logos promoting the Fairy Liquid baby.

Procter & Gamble, which owns Fairy Liquid, is one of a growing number of companies taking advantage of the commercialisation of Christmas to sponsor Christmas lights.

They are sharing the £70,000 cost of the display with Newcastle City Council in return for advertising their "Bizzie" babies among the sparkling Christmas trees, Santa Claus and snowflakes.

Newcastle is one of a growing number of councils signing lucrative sponsorship deals for their Christmas displays as the millennium approaches.

David Roberts, managing director of Plein Air, which has organised many of the deals, said: "Local authorities are strapped for cash. If they aren't strapped they would need sponsorship. We help them to raise sufficient funds

to have good schemes and attract shoppers into the city centres."

The commercialisation of Christmas lights began during the 1980s, when the Regent Street Association allowed Walt Disney to sponsor its illuminations.

Enid Blyton, Terence Conran, Cameron McIntosh and Yves St Laurent have all been responsible for the Regent Street lights but it is this year's lights, sponsored by Briviv's Tango drink and switched on

last Tuesday by the pop group All Saints, which have received most criticism. The street, which was designed by John Nash, is decorated with 60,000 bright orange bulbs with banners at each end reading: "The season to be Tango'd."

Planners at Westminster City Council claimed that they had no choice but to approve the scheme because the association applied so late. If they had demanded a redesign, the lights would have missed the



All Saints switching on the Christmas lights in Regent Street

November 17 switch-on date. Annie Walker, the association's executive officer, said: "In this day and age everything is commercial and therefore sponsorship makes the world go around."

Oxford Street's illuminations were first sponsored in 1996 by Sony Playstation, and the following year by Fox Kids, the satellite channel.

This year Zoe Ball, the Radio 1 DJ and TV presenter, switched on a £120,000 display of festive banners, of which Birds Eye met half the cost.

But it is the first time cities outside London have arranged sponsorship for their Christmas illuminations.

The Manchester lights were switched on last Sunday by Mick Hucknall, the singer. Renault has invested £300,000 in the city's Christmas celebrations in return for two giant logos at the end of Deansgate.

On the same day Rick Parfitt, of Status Quo, was switching on the lights in Glasgow and launching the Shine on Glasgow festival. Coca-Cola has invested £320,000 in the festivities and the city is adorned with giant posters displaying the Stubby Santa and his bottle of Coca-Cola.

Lawrence report faces challenge

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE Stephen Lawrence inquiry faces a legal challenge over whether police officers criticised in the report should be given advance copies of the comments and be allowed to respond.

The Police Federation, representing junior ranks up to chief inspector, is writing this week to Sir William Macpherson, the former High Court judge leading the inquiry, and his officials to ask them to follow the rules of other public inquiries. These allow witnesses to be sent so-called "Salmon Letters" - named after a former senior judge - detailing

comments about them. The process was followed in the Scott inquiry and yesterday Glen Smyth, chairman of the London branch of the federation, said his members should have the same right. If Sir William refuses, the federation will take legal advice.

The police believe that the inquiry will refuse and will argue that, unlike witnesses in the Scott inquiry, the police officers were legally represented and had the opportunity to put their point of view. The federation challenge could be supported by representatives of senior ranks.

Hours limit not for spin doctors

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

TONY BLAIR's most senior civil servants and Government spin doctors are going to have to work a little bit harder. Because they are permanently on call, and will have to opt out of time-keeping rules imposing a 48-hour working week, they will have to do extra paperwork and keep their own timesheets.

Even Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the home civil service, is facing the prospect of clocking in and signing himself off so that he can record the exact number of hours he works each day. Most of the coun-

try's 468,000 civil servants are spared long hours and would rarely work a 48-hour week, key staff in Whitehall including permanent secretaries, Government spin doctors and the officials who work in the private offices of Ministers are being asked to sign agreements that "the 48-hour limit on average weekly working time shall not apply in my case".

Civil service unions are generally pleased that the Government has adopted the working time limits and believe it is a step towards ending the long hours culture.

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Watchdog may end women's shared hope

A FORM of egg donation that has led to the birth of 150 babies in Britain may be outlawed this week by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

At its meeting on Thursday the HFEA could agree to ban "egg-sharing" — the process by which women undergoing in vitro fertilisation treatments can donate half their own eggs to help others in return for free treatment.

The HFEA regards the practice as akin to paying for eggs, which it has banned. It also said that egg-sharing could cause distress to women who failed to become pregnant then found that the women to whom half their eggs had been donated had been successful.

But leading specialists have strongly criticised the proposed change, which they say will reduce egg supply and cause risks to other women who want to donate eggs. The HFEA's critics include Professor Robert Edwards of the University of Cambridge, whose work led to the birth of the first test-tube baby 20 years ago, and the leading obstetrician Professor Ian Cooke of Jessop Hospital for Women in Sheffield, who was a founder member of the HFEA.

They warn that the only alternative to egg-sharing is relying on women coming forward voluntarily to donate

Protest over the test-tube patients who donate eggs, reports Aileen Ballantyne

eggs. Since that involves exposing them to fertility drugs to stimulate ovulation — a process that may carry risks, such as cancer — without any benefit, they believe that it cannot be justified.

Their argument was backed yesterday by Michelle Sneade, 35, who produces television commercials. She received eggs under the scheme and became pregnant with twins Lauren and Isaac, now eight months old. She needed the eggs because, after successful treatment for cancer when she was 24, Mrs Sneade could no longer produce her own eggs.

"This was the only way I could get pregnant and we did have our own baby," she said. "We see the twins as ours every possible way. For the donor — who could not afford the cost of IVF without the egg sharing scheme — it was also her only chance of a baby."

Like other recipients, Mrs Sneade will never know if the

woman who donated six of the twelve eggs she produced ever became pregnant. She called her son Isaac from the biblical story of the birth of Isaac to the childless Sarah and Abraham.

In its consultation paper on the issue, the HFEA describes egg-sharing as "paid" egg donation and a spokesman said there were concerns that any sort of "financial inducement" might cause a woman to donate eggs they would not otherwise have given.

Dr Karan Ahuja, scientific director of the Crownell Hospital in London, has pioneered egg-sharing in the UK. He has found that for many women who donate half their eggs, the chance of having a test-tube baby is increased, because they are able to afford more cycles of treatment.

"Among those who have donated in exchange for a free treatment cycle are women teachers, bank managers, barristers and university lecturers," said Dr Ahuja. "IVF at about £3,000 a treatment cycle is very expensive and is also very wasteful of eggs."

A research paper by Dr Ahuja, Mr Simons and Professor Edwards, which strongly argues the case for egg-sharing, is to appear on the Internet website of the medical journal *Human Reproduction* this Wednesday on the eve of the crucial HFEA meeting. Profes-



Michelle Sneade gave birth to twins after receiving donated eggs. "This was our only chance," she said

sor Edwards said that he had become increasingly convinced of the value of egg-sharing because it did not involve healthy women taking drugs in order to become unpaid egg donors voluntarily — a practice that is allowed by the HFEA.

A woman undergoing IVF would have to take such drugs in any case in order to have a baby and surplus eggs could be donated with no harm to the donor.

"Egg-sharing is a loving, anonymous donation in just the same way as altruistic egg

donation" he said. "Some would say more so, because it is a gift from one woman who has suffered the pain of infertility to another who has gone through a similar experience."

Egg-sharing is now the only method of egg donation allowed by law in Canada, Denmark and Israel because it ensures that women who do not require treatment themselves are not exposed to the potential risks of IVF.

Instead of that, say the HFEA's critics, the watchdog wishes to introduce a system under which women will be en-

couraged to donate eggs by advertising and publicly campaigns. That will enable advertisers and doctors to make money but deny any benefit to the women who give the eggs.

The HFEA said that egg-sharing could cause distress when donors who failed to become pregnant found that the other women had been successful with their eggs.

In one particular case, an HFEA spokesman said, a desperate woman had been heartbroken at the news: "The woman did not get pregnant but the other woman did and the

donor became very upset. Most clinics do not tell women but in this case it was blurted out and she found out by accident.

"We are aware of other situations where women have shared eggs because they had no other option, and who failed to get pregnant themselves. It can become very distressing."

The spokesman said that clinics had by law to inform women of the risks involved in hormone-induced production of eggs, although no such risks had been proved.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Partygoer killed by gunman

A partygoer was shot dead by a man who chased him along a busy street in Chapeltown, Leeds, West Yorkshire Police said that the victim, who was aged 23, had travelled from Manchester with his girlfriend for the party.

He had been seen talking to his killer in the street moments before being shot three times in the early hours yesterday. The gunman fled the area and police have been unable to find the weapon but said it appeared that the shots were fired from a pistol. The motive for the killing was unclear.

Fall boy dies

A five-year-old boy who suffered head injuries in a fall at a special needs school in Sheffield on Thursday has died after his parents allowed hospital staff to turn off his life-support system. Police have not released the boy's name.

Peer questioned

Police have interviewed a 68-year-old member of the House of Lords over an allegation that he exposed himself to a barmaid. The incident was said to have taken place in the Marquis of Granby pub in Westminster.

Murder arrest

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested after a 17-year-old youth was stabbed to death in a street in Batchley, Worcestershire, on Saturday, West Mercia Police said that they had also questioned several other children over the attack.

Heart man well

The man who flew to London for a heart and lung transplant on an Irish government jet has left intensive care. The jet was diverted when donor organs became available for Dermot Fenton, who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

Masterly wine

Cambridge University is to launch its own range of twelve wines under the name of Masters. Bottles will have the university's coat of arms on the label. Prices will range from £4.99 for a bergerac to £12 for a white burgundy.

Battle veteran seeks his war pension after 80 years

By PETER FOSTER



Then: the young Samuel Short in the Great War

A VETERAN of the Great War is applying for a war pension 80 years after he was caught up in a mustard gas attack while serving on the Western Front. Samuel Short, who celebrates his 100th birthday next May, was paid 12 shillings a week after he was invalided out of the Army but the payments were cut to five shillings in 1920 and were stopped by 1921.

Since then Mr Short has claimed nothing from the State for his wounds, despite having his lower left lung removed after he contracted cancer in 1961 and being left with breathing diffi-

culties which saw him spend nine days in hospital last Christmas. But on the advice of British Legion, Mr Short, who lives alone and independently in his bungalow in Ware, Hertfordshire, has applied for a pension which could pay him an estimated £100 a week.

"I told them I thought too much time had elapsed but they said I was eligible," he said. "I never thought to claim before. We didn't back then. We didn't have things like counselling, we just came back and got on with life."

The widower, a retired surveyor, is one of thousands of ex-servicemen who the British Legion believes are eligible for a pension but are not claim-

ing their entitlement. Tom House, its head of pensions, said the Legion was actively trying to encourage servicemen and their widows to come forward if they believe they have a claim. More than 300,000 servicemen currently claim war pensions at a cost of almost £1.3 billion a year but only 71 are Great War veterans.

Mr Short served with the 2/10th London Regiment (The Hackney Rifles) and later the Post Office Rifles. Although he admits that he often cannot remember what he had for lunch yesterday, August 24, 1918 remains crystal clear in his mind. It was a quiet day during a lull in the fighting and he

was manning a trench near Arras. "We had been in the trenches for about five days and I remember we ran out of cigarettes. But on that particular day, rations came up with some cigs and the Germans started shelling us. It was about 3.00pm. It carried on until midnight but it was breezy and the gas seemed to be clearing away nicely.

"So we took off our masks for a smoke when the Hun sent over a high explosive shell which burst right on the parapet of our trench, leaving us partially buried. He followed up with gas shells which caught us as we picked ourselves up."



Now: the veteran aged 99 is seeking pension

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Partygoer killed by gunman

Partygoer was shot dead by a man who chased him along a busy street in Chippingwood, West Yorkshire. Police said that the victim, who was 22, had travelled the distance with his friend...

Fall boy dies

A five-year-old boy who fell from a high-rise building in a city died of his injuries in a hospital. The boy had been playing in a park when he fell from a window ledge...

Peer questioned

A peer was questioned over alleged involvement in a controversial deal. The peer had been seen at a meeting where the deal was discussed...

Murder arrest

A man was arrested on suspicion of murdering a woman. The woman was found dead in a park, and the man was seen near the scene...

Heart man

A man with a heart condition was hospitalized. He had been feeling unwell and was taken to the hospital where he was diagnosed with a heart problem...

Row as theatre saviour wants name in lights

THE future of the Royal Court theatre could be secured with a £3 million donation if it agrees to a controversial condition to incorporate the name of its benefactor into the title. The council of the Royal Court — whose members include the actress Joan Plowright and the director of BBC television Alan Yentob — has already accepted the deal with one of its main sponsors, the Jerwood Foundation, though no formal agreement has been signed.

Royal Court playwrights are unhappy about strings attached to £3m donation, says Dalya Alberge

The theatre's former artistic director, Stephen Daldry, insisted that no offer had been made and said negotiations were taking place with "lots of people". But the concept of a "Royal Court Jerwood Theatre" has been a hard thing for some within the profession to swallow. The playwright Carol Churchill said she was among "a lot of writers who feel very unhappy" about the Royal Court, "an institution which stands for something", being renamed.

Mr Evans stressed that he is not as active a council member as he would like to be and praised Mr Daldry and his successor Ian Rickson, as well as the chairman, the writer John Mortimer.

The theatre's problems centre on £3 million which it desperately needs to raise by May to ensure its survival — the final amount of the £25.83 million redevelopment of its Sloane Square site.

Mr Daldry warned that unless that amount was found, the theatre was facing liquidation.

But Stephen Evans, the film producer whose movies include the Oscar-winning *The Madness of King George*, criticised the "small faction" of council members and playwrights for even contemplating turning down the offer. He said: "They would be virtually bankrupt without it. There is no alternative."

"The public will still talk of going to The Court, just as they talk of going to The National, not the Royal National Theatre. The name will be on lightbulbs beckoning out over Sloane Square. So what?" He added: "People who criti-

lights" in mind. "But I do want to see women take their place at MCC without feeling threatened or unwanted. Obviously we have to ensure there are such basic amenities as toilets — or do we insist they wait until they get home?" However, he added, "I see our priority as deciding who to elect as our first women members."

The MCC lets men such as former Test players "jump the queue" in recognition of their services to cricket. Sir Tim says women who have served the game with distinction abroad should be considered.



John Jerwood: set up the foundation



Pulling power: competitors take part in the 8th British Indoor Rowing Championships at Reading yesterday. More than a thousand people took part and more than 20 British records were broken. Sport, page Z1

New plan to call time on rowdy pubs

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

ROWDY pubs could have their opening hours slashed until their customers behave themselves under plans to reform licensing laws.

The changes would mean that licences would be issued by local authorities, who could set special conditions if the police complained about trouble at the pub. At the moment, police say, magistrates do not set conditions but either allow or refuse a licence.

Under the proposal, instead of the pubs opening until 11pm or even later on special occasions the publicans could be told to close at 9pm. Troublemakers would drift away, the pub's business would fall and the publicans forced to reform.

The plan is part of a raft of reforms which will be discussed today at a national conference of police and drink industry executives in York. At the centre of the debate will be the proposals launched this summer by a Cabinet Office task force on deregulation.

'Admit women from abroad to MCC'

WOMEN from abroad should be considered for the first coveted places for women at the MCC, Sir Tim Rice said yesterday (Ivo Tennant writes).

The writer and lyricist, who is on the MCC's general committee and championed the admission of women to the club, is heading a group looking at how the first women members should be welcomed at the Pavilion at Lords. Critics fear that menus for the diet-conscious will replace steak and kidney pie.

Sir Tim denies that he has "soft furnishings and dimmed

lights" in mind. "But I do want to see women take their place at MCC without feeling threatened or unwanted. Obviously we have to ensure there are such basic amenities as toilets — or do we insist they wait until they get home?" However, he added, "I see our priority as deciding who to elect as our first women members."

The MCC lets men such as former Test players "jump the queue" in recognition of their services to cricket. Sir Tim says women who have served the game with distinction abroad should be considered.

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Chinese now the nation's top earners

THE Chinese in Britain have overtaken whites and African Asians in the earnings and employment league.

Research to be published today shows that Chinese men have the highest average earnings and the lowest unemployment rate of any ethnic group, including whites.

The study by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Essex University also discloses enormous disparities between different minority groups. While most Chinese experience relative prosperity, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are by far the poorest groups in the country.

The study shows that the average earnings of Chinese men are £268 a week, compared with £331 for whites, £317 for Indians, £311 for Afro-Caribbeans and £220 for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

Only 9 per cent of Chinese men are unemployed, against

Research shows Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are lowest paid, Alexandra Frean reports

15 per cent of whites, 17 per cent of Indians, 31 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans and 39 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

When family income is taken into account, the Indian population also overtakes whites but still comes second to the Chinese. The figures are £314 for Chinese families, £305 for Indians, £298 for whites, £253 for Afro-Caribbeans and £174 for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. Richard Berthoud,

author of the research — the first in-depth analysis of income data on 2,500 ethnic minority households in the Government's Family Resources Survey — said that the study dispelled the myth that all ethnic minority groups were disadvantaged or that they could meaningfully be lumped together for social and economic analyses.

"By no means all minority groups experience low incomes. On some measures, Chinese and Indians are in a very similar position to the white population," he said.

He added that there was no single explanation for the relative prosperity of the Chinese. "There is a high level of self-employment among the Chinese. They tend to be in quite prosperous kinds of businesses, such as restaurants. If Pakistanis or Bangladeshis are self-employed, it tends to be as taxi-drivers, or jobs that are



Thomas and Sim Chan at home in East London with their children Jessica, 9, and Christopher, 15

not high earning," he said. The reasons for the migration to Britain of different ethnic groups were also significant. Mr Berthoud said, Chinese and African Asians who came to Britain in the 1970s and 80s tended to arrive with better educational backgrounds and standards of English than people from Pakistan and Bangla-

desh, who were often fleeing poverty and hunger. The concentration of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Yorkshire and Lancashire, where they originally found jobs in the textile trade, worked against low levels of employment among women and large family sizes.

With Chinese and Indian populations, the women are often employed in the fami-

ly business. There are between 160,000 and 180,000 Chinese in Britain. Although around 80,000 are in London, they are more evenly dispersed around the country than other groups.

The 9,000 Chinese restaurants outnumber Indian restaurants and tend to be located where they do not compete too much with each other.

He added that many Chinese in Britain came from rural parts of Hong Kong after the agricultural sector there collapsed in the 1960s. Mr Chan, who came to Britain from Hong Kong 20 years ago, was a councillor in Redbridge, East London, and is a member of Jack Straw's race relations panel. He has two children.

'Hard work and family values'

By Alexandra Frean

THOMAS CHAN, a senior manager with an NHS Trust, says that the prosperity of the Chinese in Britain is due in large part to "sheer hard work".

Deeply engrained cultural values, which place huge emphasis on parents ensuring their children have a good education so they can in turn support them in old age, are also responsible, he said.

"The relative prosperity of many Chinese people, masks the sacrifices they have made to achieve it. If they own a Chinese restaurant, they will work extremely hard, at least six days a week and the whole family will be asked to help out," he said.

He added that many Chinese in Britain came from rural parts of Hong Kong after the agricultural sector there collapsed in the 1960s. Mr Chan, who came to Britain from Hong Kong 20 years ago, was a councillor in Redbridge, East London, and is a member of Jack Straw's race relations panel. He has two children.

High rollers with a high social profile

Wing Yip, 60, who made his estimated £25million fortune in the cash and carry business. He worked as a waiter after arriving in the UK in 1955, opening his own restaurant in Ipswich and building up the W Wing Yip & Brothers empire. He was the first Hong Kong Chinese immigrant to make the Sunday Times "rich list" of the country's wealthiest 1,000 people.

Patti Wong, a director of leading auction house Sotheby's, and her merchant banker husband Andy Wong. Both are children of Hong Kong parents, but they have their main residence in Britain. Patti was educated at an English boarding school and the LSE.

Dickson Poon, hailed as the saviour of Harvey Nichols after buying the ailing Knightsbridge department store for £50m in 1991 and transforming it into a by-word for glamour. Another major investment in London was the fashionable Oxo Tower.

David Tang, the proprietor of the China Clubs in Beijing and Hong Kong, who divides his time between the two Far Eastern cities and London. He is a familiar face on the social scene.

Li Ka-shing, who controls Hutchison, the owners of Felixstowe port and the Orange mobile phone network. Li has previously made major donations to the Conservative Party.



Business emperors: Li Ka-shing and David Tang

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مكتبة من الأصل



... ..

Brown warns of battle to reclaim beef markets

BY JILL SHERMAN AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE European Union ban on British beef exports is expected to be lifted in Brussels today, allowing deboned beef to be sold abroad from February.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, has warned, however, that it could take a long time for British farmers to resume the level of trade that they had before the ban was imposed in early 1996.

The council of agriculture ministers is today expected to agree to the lifting of the export ban, despite opposition from Germany and possibly France. Britain needs only a simple majority to win its case and, following a round of intense negotiations, Mr Brown is confident that he has enough allies.

The EU move would, initially, apply only to deboned beef but Mr Brown indicated that

THE CONDITIONS

The main conditions for the export scheme are:

- only boned beef and beef products exported;
- only animals born after August 1, 1996;
- cows must be between 6 and 30 months old at slaughter;
- animals identifiable throughout lives;
- the mother must have lived BSE-free for at least six months after birth of export animal.

he would shortly be able to lift Britain's own ban on beef on the bone.

He admitted he would have to wait for a report from the scientific committee, but Whitehall officials said that if that gave the all clear, the ban

could be lifted by February or March. Mr Brown said that there was already a beef surplus in Europe and it would take some time before consumer confidence returned. Both factors could cause a problem in getting the British market back.

Speaking on BBC's *On The Record*, Mr Brown said that if agreement was reached he would work very hard to get the export scheme running by early spring.

"We will then have to have a final inspection by the Commission to make sure we have done what we said we would do, and then we should be exporting de-boned beef from Britain worldwide again."

Exports could be ready to recommence by February or March, he indicated. He warned, though: "We have been out of the market for three years now and other people have come and taken those



Cornish cattle feeding contentedly yesterday. An expected EU decision today may mean British beef could soon be on sale in Europe again

markets over. I think it's going to be a long haul but if we don't make a start we will never get there."

A further condition for easing the ban is that Britain enters into a yet another cattle cull — this time of some 12,000 offspring of cows that have died of BSE, or 'mad cow' disease. Taking stock of the saga, EU experts see the BSE crisis and John Major's ill-fated "beef war" as a turning point for the supervision of the food

by the EU. Indignation on the Continent over what was seen as lax British conduct also helped speed a drift away from meat-eating.

Today's expected decision is the result both of meeting the EU's scientific criteria and the improved relations with the EU forged by Tony Blair's government. Mr Brown and Jack Cunningham, his predecessor, have worked assiduously to mend fences with the other EU farm ministers.

Fear still follows the herd

THE ban on Northern Ireland beef was lifted on June 1 but in the six months since the province's farmers have noticed hardly any difference (writes Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent).

Before the ban was imposed in March 1996, 52 per cent of Northern Ireland's beef was sold to 48 countries

outside the United Kingdom. The figure today is about one per cent, or 25 tons a week. Will Taylor, the Ulster Farmers' Union president, blamed the Continent's continuing perception that there was something wrong with British beef and the difficulty of regaining lost markets. problems were exacerbated

by new European regulations saying all meats must be clearly labelled with their country of origin, the strong pound and the devaluation of several currencies in preparation for monetary union.

The Northern Ireland Office has allocated £2.3 million for promoting the province's beef abroad.

'Punters' will have voice on Lottery panel

BY DANIEL MCGRODY

NATIONAL Lottery players will have a voice on the panel which will decide who runs the lottery after Camelot's contract expires.

Government sources said yesterday that there should be a "punter" on the new five-member Lottery Commission, which will be appointed from a from a shortlist of applicants. A source said: "We want people who play the lottery to look after their own interests in future."

The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, said that he wanted a non-profit operator to run the lottery, and that whoever promised to raise the most money for good causes should win the licence in 2001. Mr Smith said that the Lottery Commission "will speak on behalf of the players" and will regulate Camelot's running of the Lottery until its licence runs out. Ministers have been critical of the £80.9 million profit that Camelot made last year, and of the fees paid to its directors.

Mr Smith told GMTV: "I am sure Camelot will want to put in a bid after 2000, but I very much hope they have some strong competition be-

cause it's out of a really good tough competition that we will get the best deal for the good causes."

"We have always said that we would like to see, if possible, an efficient, not-for-profit operator, doing it on the basis of cost only and everything else going to the good causes."

"I think the message is that the more bids the better the bids, and the more money for the good causes."

The Virgin tycoon Richard Branson hinted yesterday he was likely to be among the bidders to take over the twice-weekly draw, but a spokesman said: "If someone can run it with all the profits going to the good causes, then he will probably support that, rather than submitting his own bid."

The preference for a non-profit making body may deter some of the businesses behind previous bids.

A Camelot spokeswoman said that she assumed the company would bid to renew its licence. "We have provided billions of pounds for the good causes," she said.

Winning numbers, page 26

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مكتبة من الأصل

Arctic ice is now a third thinner than in 1976

GLOBAL warming may have triggered the unprecedented melting of sea ice in the Arctic, which has left the remaining ice up to a third thinner than it was 20 years ago.

Scientists studying sonar readings from British submarines fear that the thaw could lead to huge disruptions of the world's ocean circulations, including the Gulf Stream, which keeps Britain and Western Europe relatively warm.

A failure or a deflection of the Gulf Stream — which keeps Britain's ports free of ice and ensures that winter temperatures are warmer than at similar latitudes in Canada and the former Soviet Union — would have a devastating effect on the climate and the economy.

Dr Peter Wadhams, a reader in polar studies at the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, and Dr Norman Davis, a senior research fellow at the institute, said yesterday that they had compared ice thickness measurements taken from HMS *Trafalgar* in 1996 with those made by submarines from 1976 to 1987.

The earlier readings showed that ice had thinned by 12 to 15 per cent over that 11-year period and Dr Davis said that the latest findings indicated that the ice was becoming more fragile.

"It is looking considerably thinner. We would not be surprised if the final results show a 20 per cent to 30 per cent difference," he said.

Ice thickness was, on average, six metres in the 1970s. The latest findings indicate that it might now be on average up to two metres thinner.

Big melt may have dangerous effect on the world's ocean currents, reports Nick Nuttall

The findings add to a growing weight of evidence that dramatic changes are occurring in the Arctic, which may be due to emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases.

The Arctic is crucial region. The melting and freezing of its sea water drives vast ocean circulations that affect the world's weather and climate in ways that scientists are just beginning to understand.

The sea ice also reflects back into space heat from the sun that would otherwise be absorbed.

As a key area of the Greenland Sea freezes in winter, the resulting build-up of salty water sinks to the bottom, carrying with it huge quantities of dissolved carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. A slowing of

this process could accelerate the build-up of carbon dioxide and, as a consequence, speed up global warming.

Researchers in Norway said that satellite pictures had shown that the total area of the Arctic covered by ice had shrunk by 5 per cent over the past 18 years.

Dr Helge Drange, of the Nansen Environmental Remote Sensing Centre in Bergen, said yesterday: "It is an area the size of France, a substantial reduction in sea ice."

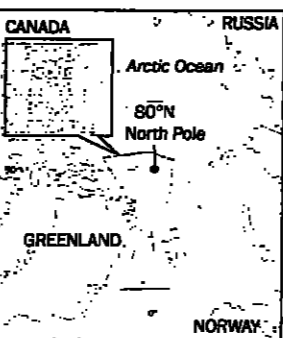
Dr Drange also said that the line at which warm Atlantic waters met cold polar waters had moved about 100km north over the past 20 years.

The findings came a week after 169 nations met in Buenos Aires to plan how to cut back emissions from industrial countries by 5.2 per cent by 2010. Countries agreed to exchange between them, after the year 2000, billions of dollars worth of green energy technology in return for credits to offset emissions at home.

Dr Davis said that researchers were now studying submarine readings dating back to 1967 to help assess whether the thinning was part of a natural cycle or a trend caused by global warming.

Dr Wadhams said that they were also keen to match their findings with readings from US submarines, which operate on the other side of the Arctic, overlapping with British ones near the pole.

The US data, which is now beginning to be being declassified, may include readings dating back to 1957 when *Nautilus* made the first sub-polar voyage.



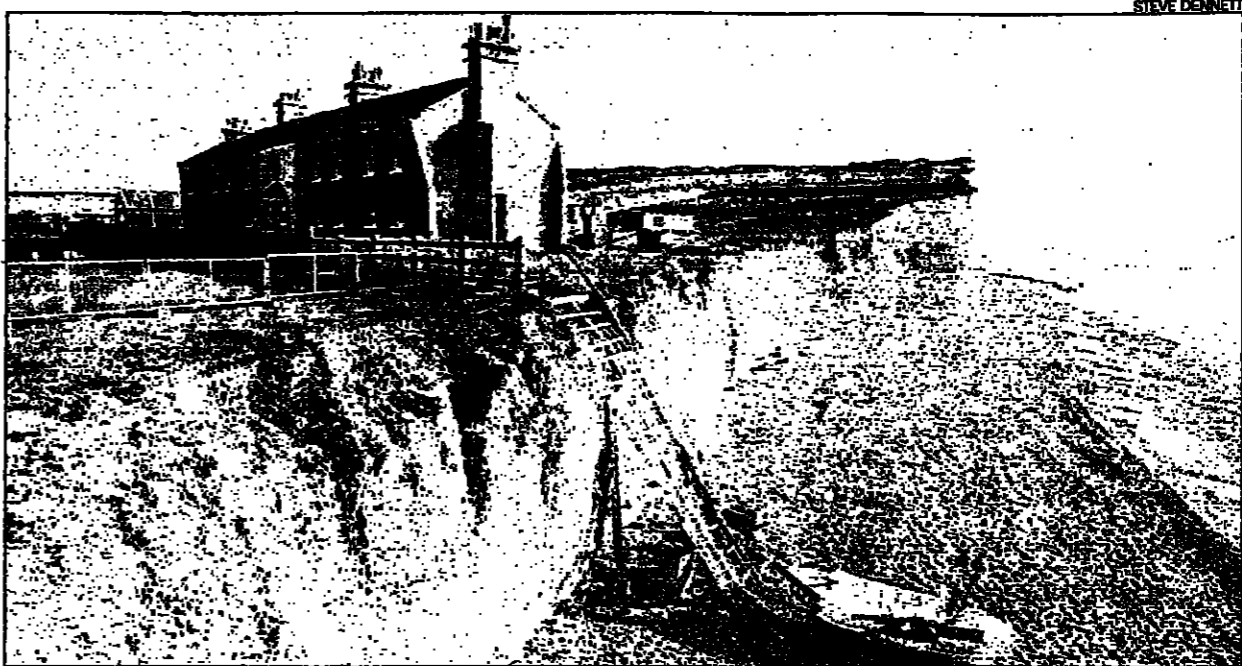
Mind the gap: a poster in a resident's window

Villagers on cliff edge to sue trust

PEOPLE living in a hamlet that is teetering on a cliff edge are to take legal action against the National Trust in an effort to stop their homes falling into the sea (Helen Johnstone writes).

Villagers from Birling Gap, East Sussex, which attracts 250,000 visitors a year, believe that the trust, which owns the land, should protect their homes. The trust, which admits that its policy of managed retreat will mean homes falling into the sea, said that it wanted to work with nature.

The cliff has been eroding at a rate of about 3ft a year and campaigners say that a



Birling Gap, near Eastbourne, showing the ravages of erosion today and, below, at the turn of the century

set of boulders at the bottom of the cliff could halt the decline and save the properties for a further 30 years. This plan, called a rock revetment, is the only hope of saving the settlement, which consists of a few cottages, a hotel, public conveniences, a car park, a telephone box and a coastguard station. One cottage has crumbled into the sea and a second has been demolished.

The scheme is opposed by conservationists, who argue that it would upset the natural landscape in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. But the Birling Gap Cliff Protection Association



says the trust should have already acted and should foot the estimated £300,000 bill for the project.

Jeanette Taylor, solicitor for the association, said: "We will be taking action against the National Trust unless they come up with proposals

for the settlement of this issue. We feel it is their duty as the landlord to protect the property and the people who live there. Why purchase this piece of land and then let it fall into the sea?"

Lord Harris of High Cross, the chairman of the association, said: "The community of Birling Gap must be saved. The trust should agree as a matter of urgency to a revetment being built." He said the trust had a duty of care to protect structures. "We have taken legal advice and we think we have a good case."

Lord Howie of Troon, who rents a coastguard cottage, said the trust's policy was wrong. "If you allow nature to take its course, you destroy the habitation. What you are saying is a group of dwellings is less important than grass." He said that the erosion could have been stopped and the revetment "should have been done years ago".

Al Fayed's £2m forestry grant angers villagers

By FRASER NELSON

MOHAMED Al Fayed may collect a £2.2 million Forestry Commission grant by planting up to 230,000 trees on his Scottish highland estate at Inveroykel, despite protests by crofters who fear the scheme will cripple the local economy.

Locals fear that the trees will soak up so much spring water that the River Oykel will be substantially lowered, driving away salmon and the anglers who prop up the local tourist industry. Steve Mouat, the Community Councillor for the

village of Rosehall, Sutherland, said that he would make a formal protest to the Highlands and Islands Regional Council. "We have 12 per cent unemployment and there are 20 jobs depending on the river. If they go, there will be nothing to replace them," he said.

Mr Al Fayed's real estate agent, Johnathon Hensen, said: "This is not about commercial forestry. We are trying to restore Scotland's natural woodlands. If we had any evidence that the scheme will

damage the local economy, it simply will not go ahead."

Mr Al Fayed has proposed to cover 2,300 hectares of barren land with Scots pine and broadleaf trees on barren land. This would necessitate a cull of about 100 deer, which which locals fear would reduce the demand for stalking.

The Forestry Commission said: "We have asked for an independent environmental audit because the proposal is so large, but the grant would only cover part of the costs."



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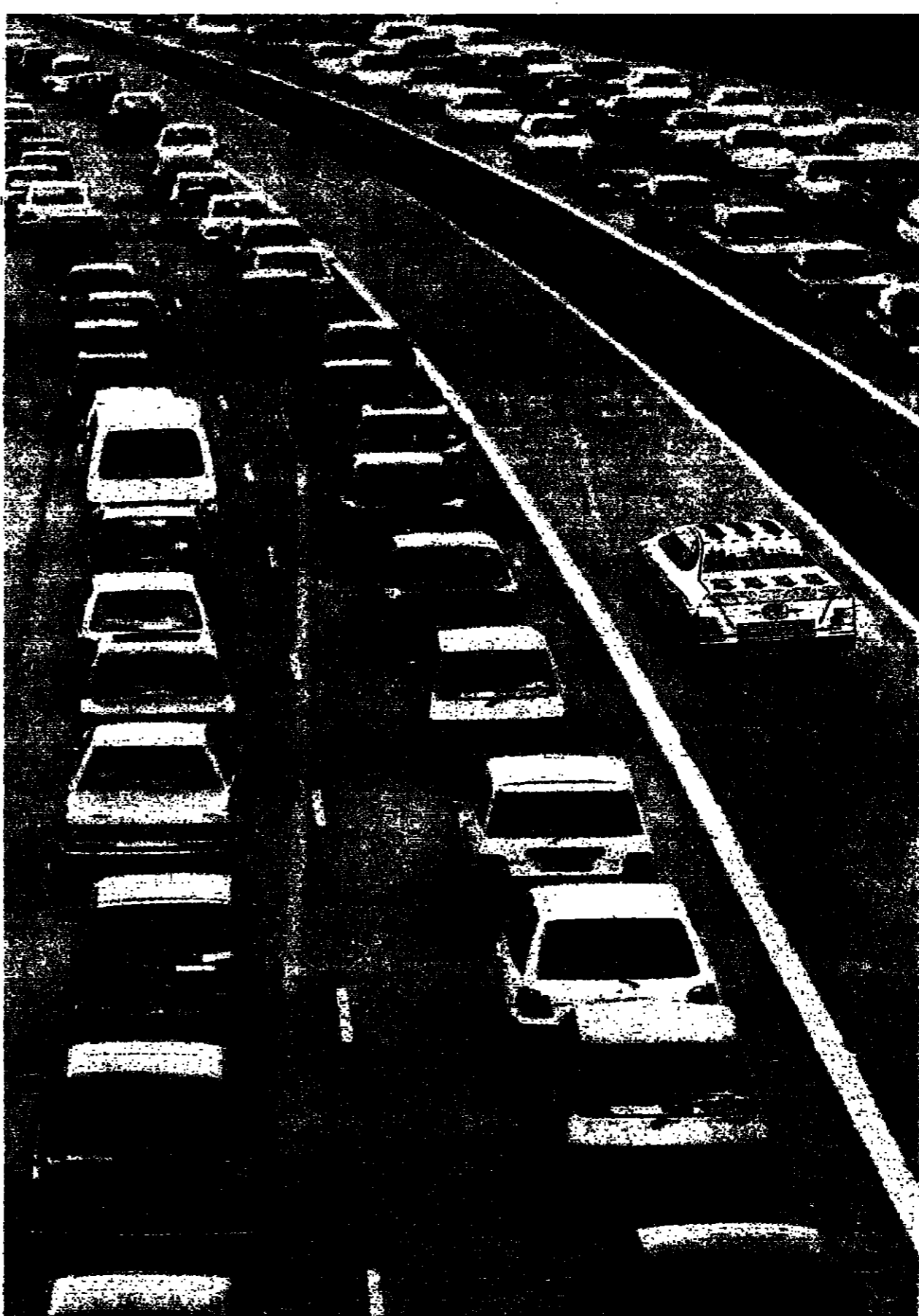
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Six killings later, police make the connection

Audrey Magee reports on family's call for help to solve mystery of missing women in the mountains

A ROADSIDE memorial was erected yesterday to mark the last sighting of a young woman suspected of falling prey to a serial killer roaming the east coast of Ireland.

JoJo Dullard is one of six women to have vanished since 1993. Police are now investigating the possibility that all were raped, murdered and buried in shallow graves in the Wicklow and Dublin mountains.

The women were aged 17 to 26. Some, like Miss Dullard, were hitch-hiking when they vanished while others failed to return from trips to local shops and pubs. One was seven months pregnant.

Police originally dismissed suggestions that a serial killer was at large in spite of apparent similarities between cases. Now officers unconnected with the initial investigations have been appointed to trawl through the details. The new team is being led by Tony Hickey, the assistant commissioner who led the inquiry into the murder of the journalist Veronica Guerin.

They are comparing the six cases with those of three women whose bodies were found in the mountains over the past 20 years. Phyllis Murphy, 23, was found raped, strangled and partially hidden in bushes in the Wicklow mountains in

1980. Eight years later the decomposed body of Antoinette Smith, 27, was found in a boggy, shallow grave in the Dublin mountains. She is thought to have been raped and strangled. Two miles away, in 1992, police uncovered the body of Patricia Doherty, 30, a mother of two who vanished after going Christmas shopping.

Among the missing six, Ms Dullard, 21, vanished in November 1995 while hitchhiking between Dublin and her home in Cullin, Co Kilkenny. She had missed the last bus and called a friend from a telephone box in Moone to explain her delay. A car pulled up and offered a lift. She has not been seen since. Her sister, Mary Phelan, unveiled a memorial outside the telephone box in the hope of sparking the memory of a passer-by. She said: "I thought it would get easier with time but it gets harder because you desperately want to find out what happened."

John McCarrick, a New Yorker whose daughter Annie



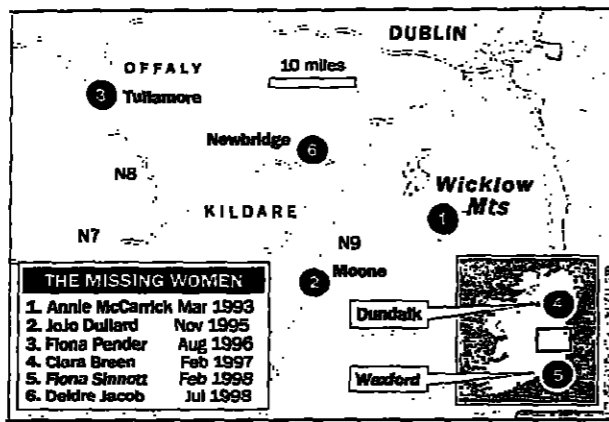
JoJo Dullard: vanished after she accepted a lift

disappeared in 1993, became so frustrated with the police search that he hired a private detective and offered a \$150,000 reward for information. Ms McCarrick, an Anglo-Irish literature student, disappeared during a day-trip to the Wicklow and Dublin mountains. Despite Ireland's largest missing-person's investigation, she was not found. Mr McCarrick said: "I am happy to see the Gardaí reopen the case. It won't bring Annie back but I would like to see justice done and somebody held responsible."

The move to reopen the case was prompted by the disappearance in July of Deirdre Jacob, 18, a student teacher home from London. She was walking home after visiting her grandmother's shop in Newbridge, Co Kildare. She was seen in the local bank and post office but vanished within 300 yards of her house.

In February, Fiona Sinnott, 19, vanished after a night out with friends in a pub in Wexford. Ciara Breen, 17, from Dundalk, Co Louth, disappeared after slipping out of her bedroom window one night while her mother was asleep.

The sixth missing woman is Fiona Pender, 25, a part-time model from Tullamore, Co Offaly, who was seven months pregnant. The alarm was raised after her mother twice called to her flat in August 1996 but failed to gain access. Maternity units were alerted but failed to yield any trace.



THE MISSING WOMEN

1. Annie McCarrick	Mar 1993
2. JoJo Dullard	Nov 1995
3. Fiona Pender	Aug 1996
4. Ciara Breen	Feb 1997
5. Fiona Sinnott	Feb 1998
6. Deirdre Jacob	Jul 1998



The memorial unveiled yesterday by Miss Dullard's sister Mary, who said: "It gets harder with time." Below, four of the missing women: from left, Annie McCarrick, Fiona Pender, Fiona Sinnott and Deirdre Jacob



Home Office rules out deal with Shayler Snubbed skipper rows on

OFFICIALS at the Home Office and Security Service said yesterday that they would not drop official secrets charges against David Shayler, the former MI5 officer, in return for his silence.

In Paris at the weekend after a French court rejected a request for his extradition, Mr Shayler said that he was prepared to negotiate a settlement with the British authorities that would allow him to return to Britain.

But in a statement the Home Office said: "We are not currently in discussion with Mr Shayler and criminal charges remain on the file. If he has something to say he should take advice from his solicitor and any ap-

proach should come from his solicitor. The question of a deal on criminal charges does not arise."

Privately officials are adamant that there be no deal, although talks did take place before Mr Shayler was arrested. They are now waiting to see if the French authorities decide to take the court decision to appeal.

Despite the Home Office comments, John Wadham, Mr Shayler's lawyer and director of the civil liberties group Liberty, said that he was still hopeful

that a deal could be made and that the Home Office statement did not rule out talks. The Government, he said, was in a difficult position after the French court decision that the case was politically inspired.

If Mr Shayler was to be put on trial there would be extensive publicity, as well as embarrassment for ministers who in Opposition had supported the idea that whistleblowers be allowed a "public interest" defence.

Yesterday Mr Shayler was still in

Paris, but his lawyer said that he believed it was possible for him to travel if he wanted. Britain would then have to track him down and persuade the host country to allow extradition.

Speaking in the *Mail on Sunday* yesterday, Mr Shayler said: "I spent four months in prison for telling the truth about the failures of the British intelligence services. I may be bloodied but I am certainly unbowed. Britain has been shown up in front of the rest of Europe by this week's decision."

He first approached the newspaper 18 months ago with claims of incompetence and bungling within MI5. Yesterday he said he could not speak further because it might be used against him.

A BRITISH skipper whose crew gave up during an attempt to break the record for rowing across the Atlantic is hoping to recruit a new team and carry on, his father said.

The *Atlantic Endeavour's* effort to beat the 35-day record — set by a French boat in 1992 — seemed finished last week after crew members jumped ship in the Cape Verde Islands amid complaints of poor conditions and fatigue. Roy Finlay, 36, the captain, has refused to admit defeat and last night re-

ceived assurances of continued support from at least one sponsor.

His father, Bob Finlay, said that the former naval diver from Renfrewshire was seeking a fresh team of 16 rowers on the islands and hoped to set off for Barbados once the boat's generator has been repaired. He said: "It won't be a record attempt now but they will cross the Atlantic with the boat to Barbados."

"One of our sponsors has been in touch expressing support for Roy and saying that he has their backing to carry on, which is great news."

Kenneth Crutchlow, of the Ocean Rowing Society, which oversees record attempts, said that the unplanned stop in Cape Verde would not invalidate a record attempt. The boat had, however, a lot to make up to overcome a poor start.

"To break the record they needed to keep up an average 100 miles a day and the best they have managed is 72."

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Chaucer people

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Popular TV...
stories, Carol Midgley

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Chaucer? Not many people know that

Michael Caine is role model for popular TV version of 'under-read' stories, Carol Midgley reports

ANIMATORS trying to make a popular television version of *The Canterbury Tales* turned to the cinema for role models. The result is that Christmas audiences will see Geoffrey Chaucer giving sardonic asides influenced heavily by Michael Caine in *Alfie*.

Scenes of pilgrims riding on horseback have been based on footage of riders in the westerns *The Searchers* and *Unforgiven*. The creators were determined to make the animation realistic and modern while remaining faithful to the original in an attempt to bring Chaucer to the masses.

"The idea is to get more people interested in Chaucer — he is very under-read," Jonathan Myerson, the director, said. "But once you see the characters talking in sentences they just burst into life. My children have seen it and they were transfixed," Myerson,

who also directed the Emmy-award winning series *Shakespeare - The Animated Tales* and *Testament - The Bible in Animation*, said that he wanted to get the body language just right while the medieval pilgrims were on horseback.

"I sat down with the director of the pilgrim sequence and watched John Wayne in *The Searchers* and Clint Eastwood in *Unforgiven*. We wanted to look at how they had filmed someone on a horse, what camera angles they used." The portrayal of Chaucer himself is influenced by Caine in *Alfie* because this Chaucer turns to the camera to speak about the others in the same way as Caine's character in the 1966 film.

Six tales — by the Nun's Priest, the Knight, the Wife of Bath, the Merchant, the Pardoner and the Franklin — have been adapted for family



Caine in *Alfie* model for the animated Chaucer

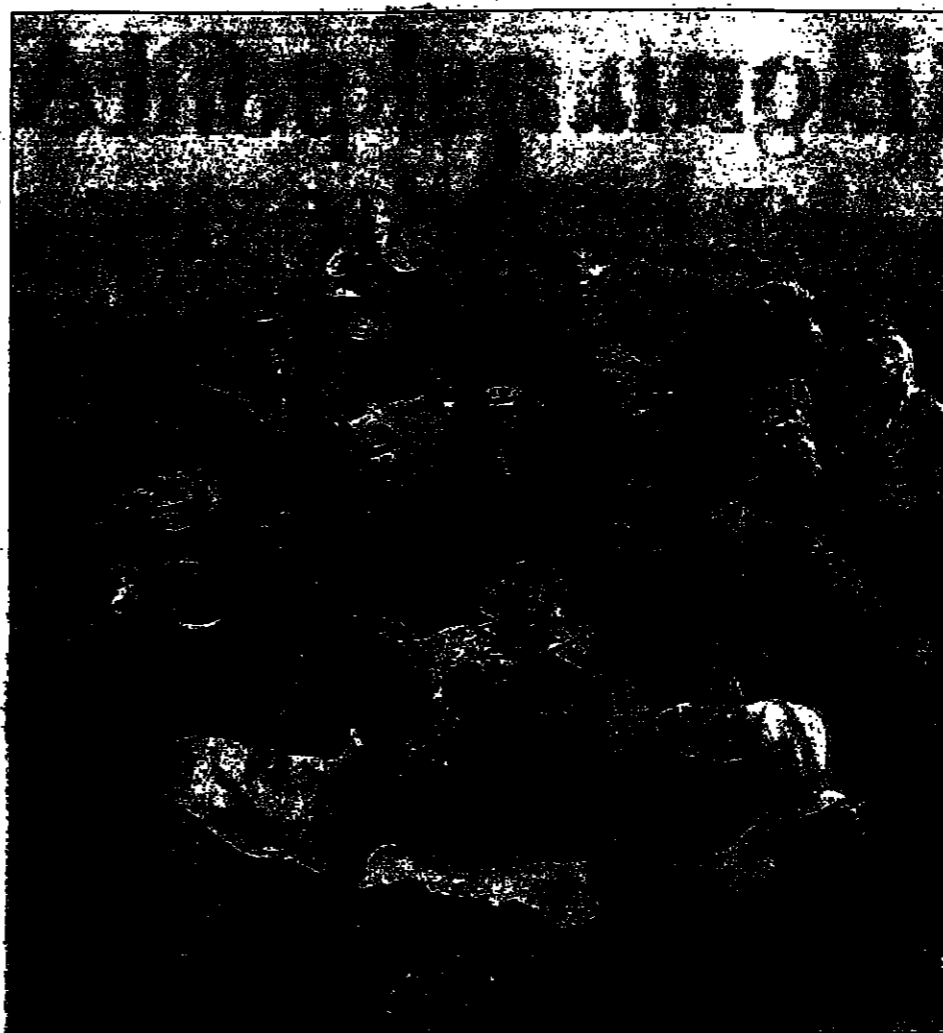
viewing and translated into Middle English, modern English and Welsh for two 30-minute films. Dr Chris Paige from Cambridge University acted as the Middle English adviser. The pilgrims' script, which provides the link between the tales, has been created from an amalgam of all the snippets of their backchat and dialogue over the three-day journey to Canterbury.

all of Chaucer's lines, jumble them up then stick them back together in an order which would bring the banter between the pilgrims to dramatic life," Myerson said.

"I've translated the modern English script very loosely at times and I've massacred Chaucer's metre and rhyme but it's all dubble back into Chaucer. I don't think he'd mind. Like Shakespeare, he knew all about reworking other people's material."

The animation has been made jointly by BBC Wales and the Welsh independent channel S4C. The modern English and Welsh versions will be shown at Christmas, while the Middle English version is expected to be reserfed for schools and colleges.

There are now plans to make a third film including the Miller and Reeve's tales, which are more bawdy in content, involving buttocks and flatulence. Myerson is confident that he can maintain its status as family viewing. "A lot of it is just farce. It is fairly harmless. You can sidestep a lot of the naughtiness."



Fastest pilgrims in the West: the animated characters on their way to Canterbury

BBC hopes Tweenies will follow Teletubbies

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CHILDREN who are too old for the Teletubbies but too young for school will have a new set of television characters to keep them occupied — the Tweenies.

The new series will centre on four characters who, like the 3 to 5-year-olds at which it is aimed, play and explore the world around them. Jake, Fizz, Milla and Bella will be helped in their adventures by two adults.

The new characters will resemble real children more closely than the Teletubbies. An independent programme maker, Tell-Tale productions, has been commissioned to make 260 episodes.

BBC managers hope the Tweenies catch the imagination of youngsters in the same way as the Teletubbies, who earned the corporation £23 million last year through overseas sales and merchandising. The Tweenies are not intended to replace the Teletubbies, however. Filming on a new series of Teletubbies will begin next year.

New unit to fight resistant bacteria

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NEW surveillance unit is being set up to curb the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring and Reference Laboratory, to be based at the Public Health Laboratory Service headquarters in London, will be central to the national campaign against antibiotic resistance recently proposed by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee.

Dr David Livermore, director of the new laboratory, said: "Resistance is increasing worldwide. When penicillin was first introduced in the 1940s, nine out of ten *Staphylococcus aureus* — a common cause of wound infections — were sensitive. Now only one in ten is sensitive. About a third are resistant to penicillin's successor compound, methicillin. A few, from Japan and America, are resistant to vancomycin, which has been the drug of last resort."

Dr Livermore said that the laboratory would monitor the success of the campaign to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics. "To do this we must monitor patterns and trends in resistance and relate these to antibiotic use and clinical outcomes," he said.

Funerals 'should not be dismal experience'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE average British funeral can end up as a "miserable and disappointing affair" lacking symbolism, dignity, time and comfort, according to a report published today.

Crematorium arrangements add to the "dismal experience" when mourners are herded into and through chapels on a production-line schedule, according to Malcom Johnson, chairman of the National Funerals College.

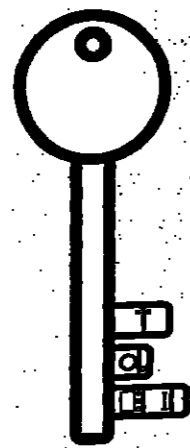
Professor Johnson, of Bristol University's Institution of Health and Ageing, calls for people to make plans for their funerals in advance of their death, rather than leaving it all to grieving relatives.

Writing in the introduction to the *Dead Citizens Charter*, Professor Johnson says: "Diana, Princess of Wales, was given a unique funeral for a unique person. Yet we are each of us unique and deserve no less."

He says the average British funeral will pass without an informed or thoughtful appreciation of the life just ended.

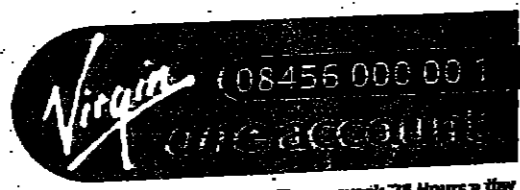
The charter calls for stronger regulation and monitoring of the funeral industry, and advocates re-use of old graves.

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US crime at lowest for 23 years

By IAN BRODIE

AMERICA'S crime rate reached its lowest level for 23 years, the FBI reported yesterday. After skyrocketing in the 1980s, the number of serious crimes has now gone down for six years. Murders and robberies showed the steepest decline, a drop of 7 per cent between 1996 and last year.

President Clinton gave a warning against complacency and there is still a burglary every 13 seconds, a robbery every minute, a rape every five minutes and a murder every half an hour.

There were nearly 13.2 million serious offences at a rate of nearly 5,000 for every 100,000 residents and a decrease of 3 per cent.

Several reasons are becoming clear for the downward trend, which now goes beyond a statistical blip. Criminal elements of America's baby-boom generation are growing more law-abiding with age. Also, the crack epidemic has passed its peak. The prison population is at a record 1.2 million, with many serving longer sentences.

Police have been sent back to patrolling on foot or bicycle and there are more of them. The low unemployment rate and good economic conditions also help.

Bonn asks CIA to hand over old Stasi files

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE new German Government has asked the United States to return a trove of espionage files obtained by the CIA from East Germany after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

It is not the first time the Germans have sought to recover the files, which include the identity of thousands of Western agents who worked for the Stasi, the East German state security apparatus.

The earlier requests were rebuffed and there is no indication that they will be heeded this time, despite German insistence that all files that once belonged to East Germany are now the property of the Bonn Government.

Acquisition of the Cold War files is regarded as one of the CIA's greatest coups. How and when they fell into American hands remains a mystery. By one account, they were obtained by bribing a Soviet military intelligence officer who was in charge of transporting the documents to Moscow. German intelligence officials have on occasions been allowed to review the Stasi files, but never as fully as they would like because of CIA fears over leaks.

New details emerged yesterday in *The Washington Post*, which said the files were

stored at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Each of thousands of index cards was said to contain an agent's name, address, code-names, pseudonyms used on passports, missions performed and even pay records.

One of the reasons given for the continued secrecy is the possible danger to the life of anyone suspected of providing the files to the CIA. Former East German intelligence officers are said to be still bent on revenge. The death of a former high-ranking Stasi officer in a car accident in Portugal was investigated by German intelligence as a possible murder linked to his collaboration with Western authorities after

the fall of communism. The CIA was said to have contacted many of the individuals in the files in an attempt to "cauterise" them against approaches by Russian intelligence, which also has most of the names from old KGB files.

Another reason for the CIA not returning the files is that they are still useful for turning up Cold War spies, as shown by the conviction in Washington only last month of two former campus radicals who now face life in prison.

Theresa Squillacote, 40, a lawyer at the Pentagon, and her husband, Kurt Stand, 43, were recruited at college and worked for the Stasi through the 1970s and 1980s, prosecutors said. In a court affidavit, an FBI agent said Squillacote was identified in her Stasi file by her real name and also under a false name of Mary Miller which was used to provide her with a British passport.

The couple were arrested in an FBI sting after trying to reactivate their spy ring by offering classified material to the South African Communist Party. Yesterday's report said the couple were among a handful of individuals who have been charged with spying in America and overseas as a result of the Stasi files.

Aircraft hits new heights

Washington: An American ER2 aircraft has broken the altitude record for medium-weight planes by soaring to 68,700ft, the space agency Naasa said. The record was set on Thursday during a scientific mission. The old record was 62,500ft, set by a Canadian P42 aircraft in 1988. (AFP)



President Clinton is greeted by US soldiers on a visit to a base near the Korean Demilitarised Zone yesterday

Clinton urges Korea vigilance

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SEOUL

DRESSED in battle fatigues, President Clinton yesterday urged American troops on the last frontier of the Cold War to stay vigilant as North Korea continued to deny access to an underground bunker

that is suspected to be part of a nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea accused the US of "wanton intrusion" into its affairs and has demanded \$300 million (£180 million) for access to the bunker, which would be forfeited if the claim proved untrue.

The President's visit to South Korea coincides with increasing evidence that the Pyongyang regime is continuing its long-range missile programme and pursuing exports to Iran, Syria and Libya.

It follows North Korea's launching of a multistage missile in August which crossed northern Japan, and which enables the regime to hit targets in Japan and possibly Hawaii and Alaska.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said North Korea's failure to stop missile development and discontinue exports had brought relations to "a critical juncture".

Mr Clinton told Koreans at the weekend that he supported President Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of engagement with the North and that the four-party peace talks, involving North and South Korea, the United States and China, were still the best avenue to a lasting settlement.

"North Korea's recent actions, including the Taepodong missile launch and the construction of a suspect underground facility are cause for deep concern," he said. "We have made it clear to Pyongyang that it must satisfy



President Clinton joins his half-brother Roger, a singer, in Seoul for the recording of a television show. The President made his surprise appearance on stage after meeting President Kim Dae Jung during his state visit

our concerns and that further provocation will threaten the progress we have made."

An alternative name for President Kim's policy is "sweet and sour" — the second visit to North Korea by a southern tourist ship last week being the latest sweetener to his warning to the North: "We will not tolerate any possible attempts by North Korea to proliferate nuclear weapons, missiles and other weapons of mass destruction." Mr Clinton said Congress would be unwilling to continue funding the 1994 Geneva agreement, under which the US finances two light-water nuclear reactors — which are expected to provide electricity in the North — in return for an end to the nuclear programme.

South Korean ships, carrying more than 700 visitors are

earning big tourist returns for the North, although visitors are channelled along roads hemmed in with barbed wire and prevented from meeting local people.

Mr Clinton had high praise for his host's democratic credentials. "President Kim is one of the world's most eloquent advocates for the proposition that democracy and prosperity must go hand in hand," he said. "Asian countries that are responding to the crisis by deepening their democracy, such as Thailand and Korea, are faring better because the difficult solutions they propose have more legitimacy with their people."

Mr Clinton said that "reckless war provocation moves" by the US were driving the peninsula towards nuclear war. (AFP)

Getty gets \$15m for two-bed top flat

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

HIGH on San Francisco's Russian Hill, a 24th-floor penthouse has been sold by Billy Getty, of the Getty Oil dynasty, for \$15 million (£9 million) — thought to be the highest price paid for a flat of its size.

It is, according to his excited estate agent, "a total trophy apartment, possibly the best in the world".

The two-bedroom top-floor flat in the heart of San Francisco's most sought-after neighbourhood certainly has unrivalled 360-degree views of the surrounding bay — when it is not shrouded in fog. It was bought fully furnished by Charlton Buckley, a local broadcasting tycoon flush from the recent sale of a group of radio stations.

Mr Getty had lived at 1750 Taylor Street for less than a year, but Mr Buckley's unsolicited offer reportedly gave him a \$5 million gain on his investment, and easily beat New York's record for a similar apartment — \$9.5 million paid by David Koch, the billionaire, for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's Manhattan home three years ago. Mr Buckley's new flat is "one of a kind", his estate agent insisted. "There's nothing like it in the world."

Mr Getty and his friend Vanessa Jarman are on holiday in Baja, California, while decorators swarm over a new and much larger home he has bought in San Francisco's Pacific Heights, where his neighbours will include the author Danielle Steele.

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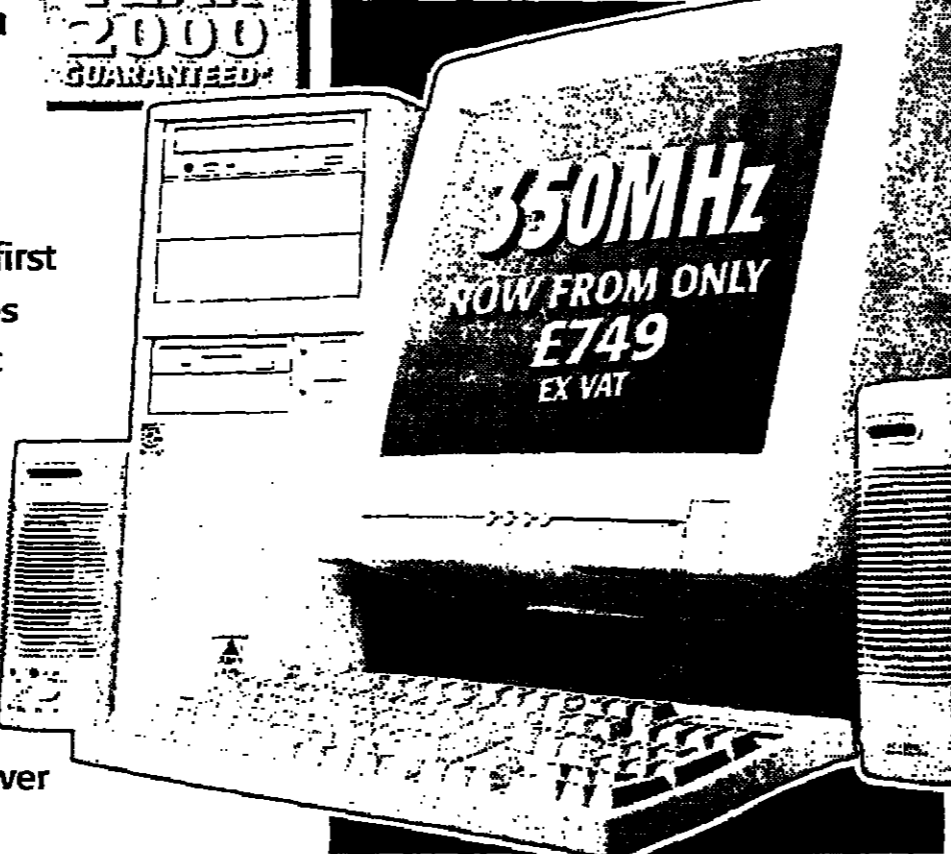
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Libya 'to spurn bombing trial request'

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH officials are bracing themselves for the harsh public acknowledgment that Libya is unwilling ever to comply with the request to send the two Lockerbie bomb suspects for trial.

If Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, does not send an unequivocal reply within the next three weeks, Britain and America will take his silence as a refusal. They will then have to decide whether to seek a toughening of United Nations sanctions on Libya or seek some other way of forcing it to comply with UN resolutions.

No formal deadline has been set, but the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am bombing is next month. The offer to hold a trial in The Netherlands was made in August, but since then the Libya regime has vacillated and prevaricated to try to avoid giving a definitive answer.

Britain has not made any public threats about what it might do if the Libyans renege on the offer. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said only that he believed international support for continuing sanctions would be strengthened if Libya were to turn down a solution that it proposed itself.

Madeline Albright, the American Secretary of State, has been more outspoken. Not hiding her scepticism when announcing the offer in the summer, she said the US would call Colonel Gaddafi's bluff, and gave a warning of tougher sanctions if he rejected the Anglo-American proposals.

Mr Cook briefed relatives of the victims last week on the Libyan response. Many had urged Britain to accept Libya's earlier proposals for a trial in The Netherlands as the only way of bringing the two suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah, to justice. He told them that Libya would not respond until its concerns on three main points were satisfied. They were: whether any Libyan witnesses could be arrested in The Netherlands; whether sanctions would be suspended once the men were sent for trial; and whether any prison sentences could be served in Libya.

British officials in New York say witnesses would have immunity in The Hague, but imprisonment in Libya is out of the question.

Baghdad takes gamble in war of documents

IRAQ, by denying United Nations requests for records of its biological and chemical weaponry, apparently is gambling that Britain and the United States will not go to war over missing documents.

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that most of the 12 categories of documents requested last week by Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, had either been destroyed or did not exist.

"Butler has asked for a series of alleged documents," Mr Aziz said. "He has asked for alleged documents that do not exist. He has asked for old stories which were settled in the past and he also asked for access to all the archives of the Government of Iraq."

"We told him we cannot provide documents that do not exist. It is quite provocative if you want to dig into the whole archive of the Government of Iraq, which might take decades to investigate. This is the crisis."

With the UN awaiting "clarification" of Iraq's stance today, President Clinton, travelling in Korea, adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Sandy Berger, his National Security Adviser, repeated Washington's view, however, that Iraq had an obligation to produce the documents and said that Washington was still ready to use force.

"We have said all along that the issue here is whether Iraq will meet its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and whether Unscorn is able to do its work," he said. "If we reach the conclusion that the answer to those questions is negative, we obviously are prepared to act."

Missing diaries are at the centre of dispute, writes

James Bone
in New York

President Clinton made the surrender of weapons-related documents one of the five conditions for Iraqi compliance when he called off US air strikes after Baghdad's promise to resume co-operation with UN inspectors.

The President made a particular point of mentioning a handwritten logbook by an Iraqi sergeant that was snatched away from the UN inspector who found it at Iraq's air force headquarters in July. The logbook is believed to show that Iraq used only half as many chemical weapons during its 1980-88 war with Iran as it has disclosed, raising questions about its remaining stockpile.

The so-called "air-base document" was one of the documents requested by Mr Butler last week in the first test of Iraq's readiness to co-operate fully with the UN inspectors. Iraq told the UN on Friday that it was ready to consider disclosing relevant portions of the air force document in the presence of Prakash Shah, the UN Secretary-General's envoy in Iraq. But it said that most of the other documents had either been destroyed or had never existed.

In particular, it said that, despite UN tests revealing the presence of VX nerve gas on missile fragments excavated in the Iraqi desert, it had no records of large-scale production of the lethal chemical agent in 1990. Iraq also denied that it had any documentation of its purported destruction of biological and chemical weapons in 1991 or of its claimed disposal of tons of Scud missile propellant.

Even though UN inspectors have already seen several pages from the diary of a Brigadier Ismail, of the country's surface-to-surface missile force, Iraq said that the diary had since been destroyed. A similar diary kept by an "Engineer Muqdam" dealing with the indigenous production of missile engines, of which Unscorn had already seen 11 pages, was also said to have been destroyed.

In addition, Iraq said that a January 1991 report by Lieutenant-General Hazzem Abdul Razzaq, commander of its surface-to-surface missile force, mentioned in his recent memoirs, had also been destroyed.

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Palestinian police entering the West Bank village of Anabta yesterday under the continuing handover of land by Israel

Palestinians to open their first air link with the outside world

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

A POTENT new symbol of Palestinian sovereignty will be unveiled tomorrow with the inauguration of the \$64 million (£39.5 million) Yassir Arafat International Airport.

On Wednesday Mr Arafat's jet is due to take off from the new runway at Dahaniya in the south of the Gaza Strip to fly him on an official visit to France. Previously, he would have had to drive more than 200 miles to Egypt.

Palestinian officials said the first plane to touch down would be from Egypt, followed by flights from Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and The Netherlands.

The long-awaited opening, combined with Friday's implementation of the first

West Bank land transfer under the Wye land-for-peace deal are likely to guarantee Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, a more than cordial welcome when he holds talks in London this week with Tony Blair.

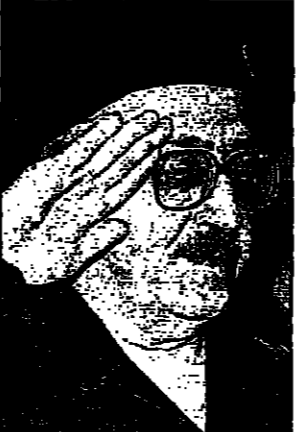
Within a few weeks, Palestinian Airlines will begin regular commercial flights from the airport, marking a new era for Gaza's one million Arab inhabitants. The fleet consists of two Fokker 50s and a Boeing 727 donated by Prince Waleed ibn Talal of Saudi Arabia. The airline, with 20 Egyptian-trained pilots, hopes to acquire an Airbus from France next year.

Details of the protocol enabling the airport to open after a two-year delay were published yesterday after a signing ceremony behind closed doors in Tel Aviv. Al-

though the Palestinians plan to undercut the Israeli national carrier El Al by \$140 on a round trip to Athens, a popular destination, it has been decided that for security reasons no Israelis will be allowed to use the airport. However, overall security control at the airport will be exercised by Israelis, who will have the right to question and search passengers and planes, with the exception of Mr Arafat's jet.

Under the new agreement, security procedures for Palestinians leaving by air will be less arduous than for those leaving by land.

Another section of the operating agreement says that national carriers of countries that are hostile to Israel, such as Syria and Iran, will not be permitted to operate. The airport will initially be able to handle 750,000 passengers a year.



Aziz denies existence of disputed documents

Iranian adulterer cheats death

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TEHRAN

AN IRANIAN man condemned to death by stoning for committing adultery was acquitted because he managed to free himself as the sentence was being carried out, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Khosrow Ebrahimi, from Lahijan in northern Iran, managed to extricate himself from the ground where he was buried to the waist as local people threw stones at him in accordance with the Islamic penalty for adultery, the daily *Hamshahri* said.

Islamic law prescribes execution by stoning for adulter-

ers, but the condemned is acquitted if he or she manages to survive the hail of stones.

The law insists that the stones must be neither so small as to be ineffective, nor large enough to knock out the condemned person in a single blow. A condemned man is buried to the waist and a woman to her armpits.

Muhammad Hussein Abedi, the prosecuting judge, told *Hamshahri* that Ebrahimi had managed to extricate himself from the ground "using the strength of his body" and was acquitted in accordance with the law.

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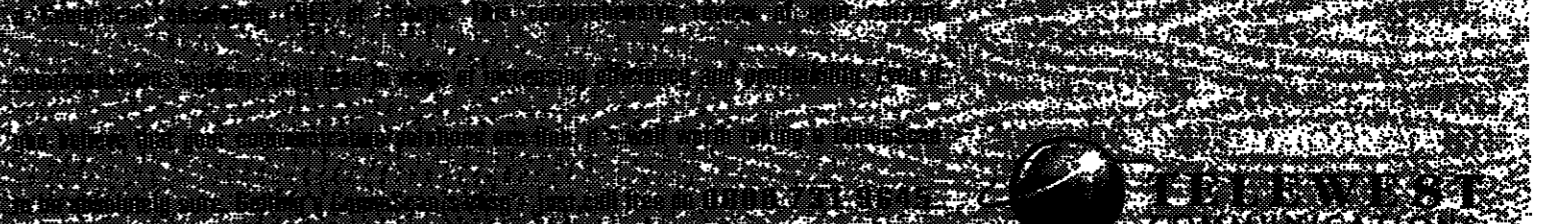
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Christians die in Indonesian Muslim attacks

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN IN JAKARTA

INDONESIAN troops last night struggled to maintain order in Jakarta after a Muslim mob went on the rampage, setting fire to churches and beating Christians to death. At least six people were killed in the sectarian violence, when the Muslims, some chanting "Death to the infidels", attacked Catholic and Protestant targets and beat and hacked to death at least five people. There were signs last night that the violence was spreading to the Chinese community and hundreds of soldiers wearing riot gear and backed by armoured cars attempted to establish a security cordon to contain the lawlessness. Shops in the central Jakarta business district closed early with merchants boarding up windows and doors. The anti-Chinese violence erupted after a gang fight between Muslims and Christians claimed six lives earlier in the day. The sectarian clashes reportedly broke out after a row over the opening times of a Christian-owned gambling hall. Later, a mob of Muslim youths set fire to a Protestant

church and ransacked a Catholic church after hearing rumours that some Christian worshippers had set fire to a mosque. In one incident, the mob broke through the front doors of the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, interrupting a wedding. They overturned pews and smashed staves and confessional boxes. The priest, the bride, the groom and wedding guests ran to the safety of a nearby community centre. Shortly after calm was restored, a mob — armed with sickles, bamboo sticks and swords — hacked to death a Christian from the eastern city of Ambon. "I just don't understand why they did this," said Father Soni Wangkang, from the Sacred Heart church. He said that many of his 6,000 flock were ethnic Chinese. "But many of our people are also Indonesians," Father Wangkang added. "All sorts of ethnic groups worship here." Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation: about 90 per cent of its 202 million people are Muslim. The ethnic Chinese minor-

ity makes up about 4 per cent of the population. The group is widely resented for its perceived dominance of the merchant class. Rumours that ethnic Chinese might have provoked the incident between Muslims and Christians are now being blamed for the violence against the ethnic Chinese minority later in the day. The ethnic Chinese, however, are also the frequent targets of violence during times of civil unrest. About 1,200 people — many of them ethnic Chinese — were killed during the rioting that engulfed Jakarta last May. Thousands of buildings and vehicles were destroyed, with widespread looting breaking out. Yesterday's renewed violence came amid heightened security after clashes between the armed forces and student protesters last week, which claimed 16 lives. Yesterday General Wiranto, the chief of the armed forces, blamed the clashes on "certain radical groups" and said that 144 troops involved in the shooting would be court-martialled.



An Indonesian Christian becomes the victim of mob violence in Jakarta yesterday

WORLD IN BRIEF

Feminist author in Dhaka court

Delhi: Taslima Nasreen, the feminist Bangladeshi author who outraged right-wing Muslim clerics with her views on sex and religion, surrendered to the High Court in Dhaka yesterday after two months on the run (Christopher Thomas writes). She is accused of outraging Islamic sentiments. Ms Nasreen fled Bangladesh in August 1994, after Islamic radicals demanded that she be hanged. The popular mood in Bangladesh cares little for the somewhat contrived controversy. Ms Nasreen was released on bail after yesterday's half-hour hearing and returned immediately to hiding. Later she said in an interview on a mobile telephone: "I'm happy to be freed on bail but my life is still at risk."

De Niro anger

Paris: Robert de Niro used the release in Paris of his latest film, *Ronin*, to attack France over his nine-hour interrogation earlier this year in connection with a prostitution ring (Adam Sage writes). In a newspaper interview the American actor, who was not charged, said: "France's guests deserve to be treated better... I am still angry today." His comments followed the first week of a trial of four people who deny that they procured girls as young as 15 for celebrities, industrialists, politicians and Arab princes.

Prince 'jailed servants'

Cairo: The Egyptian parliament wants to question the Government about a Saudi prince who allegedly turned part of a hotel suite into a prison for his servants. Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, has been investigated by police for allegedly locking up his Egyptian servants in the 29th-floor suite where he and his wife have lived for years. Two of the Prince's servants escaped from a room in the Ramses Hilton Hotel by knotting sheets together and lowering themselves through a window to the 24th floor. (AP)

Voyage to Holy See

Rome: The Pope, garlanded with flowers, accepts a Samoan's gift of a carved model canoe, symbolising the Church. It was presented during a Mass in St Peter's yesterday to celebrate a synod of bishops from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa which is being held in Rome until December 12. The lively service opened with the blare of a conch shell and was accompanied by the music of drums and guitars. (AP)

Here is the nudes...

Weipa, Australia: Organisers of an annual charity event are hoping for an entry into the *Guinness Book of Records* — for a live radio interview involving almost 200 nude men. The naked runners packed around a telephone booth for the interview after completing a number of laps of Curricular Way, a large roundabout near the centre of this bawdye mining town 1,450 miles northwest of the state capital of Brisbane, collecting money in plastic bags for the Flying Doctor service. (AP)

Hutchence memorial fails to heal family rift

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY



Hutchence: "a sensitive and loving soul"

HOPES of a healing of the rift that has divided the family of Michael Hutchence, the late rock star, since he died a year ago faded yesterday as Paula Yates and close relatives of the singer stayed away from a memorial service in Australia. Hundreds of fans gathered at a garden of remembrance in Sydney to mark the first anniversary of his death. The ceremony was more notable, however, for those who did not attend than for those who did. Michael's

father, Kell, and his brother Rhett were there, but his mother and sister were not. Neither was Paula Yates, the mother of his only child, Tiger Lily, who earlier made it clear she wanted to grieve at home in Britain. She turned down an invitation to attend the service from Michael's father, who was clearly upset by the absence of Paula, his granddaughter and other members of his family. "They were all invited, but it was up to them," he said afterwards. "I would have loved to have had Paula and Tiger here but they couldn't make it," said Mr Hutchence, who considered trying to keep

his granddaughter in Australia when she visited earlier this year. There have also been strained relations between Paula, Mr Hutchence and his first wife Patricia Glassop and daughter Tina, who failed to attend. A wrangle over Michael's multimillion-pound estate, much of which is believed to be in offshore bank accounts and a web of obscure trust funds, has also heightened family tensions. The feud prompted Pastor Denis Paterson during yesterday's service to call on those concerned to move on from the "indescribable" grief that had befallen them. The service was held a

year to the day after the INXS lead singer committed suicide in a Sydney hotel. He was found hanging by a leather belt from the door of his room. As at the funeral, a huge bouquet of blue irises adorned the altar. A much larger display of flowers, sent by absent members of INXS, who said they wanted to remember him in private, was placed nearby. The memorial service closed with the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Michael's life. On it a simple inscription read: "A sensitive and loving soul who touched hearts around the world. So dearly loved. So sadly missed. Stay young."

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Flexible working and loopholes bring back Germany's drive

The time has come, I think, to revise the idea that the German economy is an over-regulated behemoth desperately in need of lessons from Britain. There are, of course, irksome obstacles — set up and maintained by the unions — to retail trade, but over the past few years it has become plain that there is strong individual determination to get round the silliest of restrictions.

I buy bread rolls at the same time as my newspapers, at 7am at a kiosk that has been transformed into a profitable convenience store. That would have been unthinkable in 1993. Petrol sta-

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

tions now have lavish food stores attached, and operate until 10pm. Both the new corner stores and the garage shops exploit loopholes in the

Shopping Hours Act which make provision for bakers — everybody with an entrepreneurial nose has become a baker — and for outlets catering for travellers.

Bakers — suddenly selling jam, milk and many other foodstuffs — work on Sundays. Furniture shops open on Sundays too, although technically they cannot sell on that day (a post-dated cheque usually solves that problem), while department stores and supermarkets work until 8pm on normal weekdays.

That is still a long way from liberal British regulations, but there is not much

difference in actual shopping habits. If I want to buy milk, whisky, bread, a newspaper and a bunch of flowers — my usual Sunday survival ration — it is almost equally easy in Britain and Germany.

Germany has undergone a quiet revolution over the past five years, and we did not realise it until last week. Only the great Rover productivity debate flushed it to the surface.

Leading German executives, speaking at a dinner organised by Mercedes-Benz and The Times last week, were quick to reassure British listeners that the productivity gap could be

bridged. Investment, training and shrewd management were the elements that would transform Britain, according to the Rover chief, Dr Walter Hasselkus. "With more investment, training and co-operative unions we can establish production in Britain that is world-class." The analysis by Dr Hasselkus — and by other senior executives from the likes of Bayer, Bosch and Hoechst — will be carried in a special supplement with The Times next week.

The contours of the Rover deal on flexible working were already shaping up at the weekend. Under the propos-

als, up to 4,000 Rover workers will be bussed by the company during slack times at Longbridge to Solihull or Cowley. Conventional overtime payments will go: the average 37-hour week will be cut to 35, and there will be more flexibility.

Hourly wages will be replaced by fixed monthly salaries. Extra time will be chucked up and can be used as paid holiday when business is weak.

These working practices have been the German norm since the mid-1990s. Volkswagen — threatened with 30,000 job losses — agreed a four-day flexible week, which of-

ten including Saturdays. The Ford plant in Cologne technically operates a 35-hour week, but in reality workers put in 37.5 hours and the extra time is logged in a "time account".

The company can require an additional 70 hours a year from shopfloor or office workers, and these also go on the "time account". The result: expensive special shifts in boom times, lay-offs and over-production in bad times, have become a thing of the past. Opel sets no fixed working week, and has instead a "time corridor" of between 31 and 38.75

hours. Audi has the option of having its workers put in four Saturdays a month during a busy spring, compensated with time off in the autumn.

This principle — less, but more flexible work for the same money — has spread beyond the car industry into most German manufacturing. There is an entrepreneurial energy that is too often ignored as the British nurture the cliché of over-protected and over-indulged Germans.

Significantly, 84 out of the Boston Consulting Group's list of 500 most dynamic European companies are German — smart software businesses are in the lead.

Russians grieve for murdered politician

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN ST PETERSBURG

THE funeral of Galina Starovoitova, the murdered reformist politician, which is to be held tomorrow at Gostolovo near St Petersburg, will symbolise for many Russians the desperate state of affairs in which their country approaches the millennium.

Mrs Starovoitova, 52, the shining light of Russian's pro-democracy and anti-corruption movement, was shot three times in the head while returning to her block of flats in St Petersburg on Friday night.

Although she is the seventh Duma deputy to be killed since 1993 and the fifth victim of a political assassination in St Petersburg in the past six weeks, the death of Mrs Starovoitova has shocked Russians, a usually unshockable people weary of the steady stream of grisly murders that has plagued their country over the past decade.

The shock comes partly because Mrs Starovoitova was a

woman, but also because she was so famously untainted by the world of big business and corrupt politics that claims so many of the country's victims of contract killings.

There is no doubt that it was a contract killing. Entering her block of flats on the Griboyedov Canal, Mrs Starovoitova and Ruslan Linkov her young aide, were attacked by two people armed with a Beretta pistol and an Agran 2000 sub-machine gun. Both weapons were left at the scene of the crime and Mr Linkov is still critically ill in hospital.

Sergei Stepashin, the Interior Minister, and Vladimir Putin, the director of the Federal Security Service, flew to St Petersburg on Saturday under orders from President Yeltsin to take charge of the investigation. They promised to find the killers and to prosecute them under the country's laws against terrorism.

"It is one of the black pages



An elderly man in St Petersburg places flowers beside a portrait of Galina Starovoitova, the murdered deputy

in our modern history," Mr Putin said. "It does not do much to improve our reputation, the reputation of the country as a whole."

Those sentiments were shared by the 200 or so mourners who gathered in the cold wet wind of St Petersburg's Palace Square on Saturday to demonstrate their anger at the death of their heroine and to celebrate her life.

"Politics, as I felt during the past night, has become the art of spitting on the soul," Viktor

Krivulin, a poet and a candidate for the regional legislature, said. The demonstrators held photographs of the stubborn and idealistic reformer with those of Andrei Sakharov and of Mr Yeltsin, whose anti-corruption crusade drew Mrs Starovoitova's unwavering support in the early days of her political career under Mikhail Gorbachev, the former President.

Mr Gorbachev described Mrs Starovoitova as "erudite, brave, active". He said: "This

is a serious loss not just for those close to her, but also for Russia."

Mrs Starovoitova, an ethnographer, was elected to the Soviet parliament from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, as a sympathiser with the campaign to reclaim the Armenian ethnic enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

Later she became Mr Yeltsin's adviser on nationalities, but fell out with him over the war in Chechnya, to which she was strongly opposed.

In a telegram to her family, President Yeltsin described Mrs Starovoitova as "one of the most vivid figures in Russian politics" and as a person who had "consistently upheld the lofty ideals of freedom and democracy".

Many are convinced that her murder was politically motivated and many accusations have been made, mainly at the Communists and nationalist groups for whom Mrs Starovoitova rarely concealed her antipathy.

Trial to start of 'deadliest serial killer'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A MAN suspected of being the world's deadliest serial killer goes on trial today in the west Ukrainian city of Zhitomir.

Anatoli Onuprienko, 39, told police after his arrest two and a half years ago that he had carried out 52 murders in villages around Ukraine, most of them during a period of three months in early 1996.

Without an apparent motive, he travelled around by train, stopping at remote villages, breaking into houses and slaughtering their inhabitants. But prosecutors believe he may be responsible for many more deaths during the early 1990s, when he roamed Western Europe, travelling without visas and surviving by robbery.

During his main alleged killing spree shortly before his arrest, Mr Onuprienko caused terror across rural Ukraine. He is believed to have carried out 42 murders, including eight entire families and nine children. Most of his suspected victims were shot with a hunting rifle, although one boy was also stabbed with a sharpened screwdriver. The killer would then set the houses alight before disappearing into the night.

He left no clues to his identity and his arrest came purely by chance. Answering the door to police carrying out a

routine document check, he understood to have grabbed his rifle from a cupboard. He was overpowered, and police matched the weapon with bullets from his victims.

He told investigators he had heard voices ordering him to kill, but said he considered himself healthy. He told his lawyers that he wanted to be executed. Ukraine has imposed a freeze on capital punishment, but the Government has indicated it would make an exception in his case.

Russia and the former Soviet republics have seen a growing number of serial killings. The most notorious murder on record is Andrei Chikatilo, who was executed in 1994 for murdering 53 boys and women in a 12-year rampage.



Onuprienko: roamed Western Europe

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The search for Hague's babes

WOMEN in politics

The Tories have 14 women MPs to Labour's 101. Grace Bradberry looks at the Conservative Party's inability to engage women in its senior ranks

This Saturday hundreds of women will file into Solihull's National Motorcycle Museum for the 67th Conservative Women's Conference. Listening to the clip of all those court shoes passing the vintage Triumphs, hearing the confident analyses of speeches by Ann Widdecombe and William Hague, among others, you might imagine that all was well. But no one knows better than the Tories that they are in a parlous state as far as women are concerned.

Although they have a proliferation of envelope-stuffers, only 14 Conservative women sit on the green leather benches in Westminster. "Blair's babes" show the Tory party in a sorry light.

The traditional Tory women who flock to their annual jamboree are now under threat, blamed by some for blocking the selection of more women candidates. But this is to oversimplify the party's woman troubles. They run much deeper. So what is the problem?

Powerful women have always had a rough ride in the party. Nancy Astor's arrival at the House of Commons in 1919, for example, was not universally welcomed. "A woman in the Commons is like a woman in my bathroom," barked Winston Churchill. After the 1931 general election, 13 Conservative women MPs were metaphorically using Winston's soap and running long baths. Would there be no end to this madness? Well, yes, there would.

Only 13 Conservative women were returned to Parliament in the last election, the same number as 66 years earlier. By contrast, the Labour Party has the famous 101 "Blair's babes" — Ally McBeal's mixed washroom to Winston's bathroom. This contrast worries the Conservative Party, not least because the female electorate, who played a decisive role in its postwar victories, appears to have deserted it. In 1997 the Tories won 34 per cent of the female vote, compared with 44 per cent in 1992.

No one knows whether there is a connection between the party's poor female representation and the falling women's vote — but no one can afford to discount the idea either. And so the search for "Hague's Babes" has begun, causing dissension and suspicion in a party that knows in its head that it needs more women, but can't necessarily reconcile its heart to the idea.

Leading the hunt is 44-year-old Ieta Buscombe, who unsuccessfully fought Slough at the last election before being enrolled and appointed the party's vice-chairman.

Baroness Buscombe is a small, blonde, fierce woman who allied her 11-plus but went on to qualify as a barrister. She is not afraid to get into a fight even one that will make her unpopular, as she proved

during the election campaign, pushing family values and her experience of motherhood in contrast to her rival, Labour's Fiona Mactaggart, who had tried to have a child outside a relationship before discovering that she was infertile.

Last year, at the party's women's conference, she said: "It is high time our party stopped talking about 'the women' as if we were from another dimension, another species. Conservative women deserve to be taken seriously, not just regarded as useful at election time and helpful in village-hall kitchens." Strong stuff from a party that flinches at talk of women's rights and that has only just dropped the requirement that prospective candidates bring their partners to selection meetings.

Lady Buscombe did indeed make a bold start. Appointed vice-chairman (women), she played a key role in drawing up *Blueprint for Change*, the consultation document used in reforming the party. That document recommended an overhaul of the Conservative women's organisation hierarchy to involve younger women, and the setting-up of a Conservative women's network to involve working women who might want to represent the party, rather than to make its scenes.

Although *Blueprint for Change* rejected the idea of positive discrimination, it suggested a rule that wherever sufficient candidates came forward, at least 25 per cent of all candidates interviewed in the first round of Westminster selection should be women. As the document acknowledged, there was a problem in finding young, professional women prepared to stand for both central and local government.



Campaign workers at Conservative headquarters in 1959. The "traditional" Tory party has a proliferation of envelope-stuffers but has failed to attract young decision-makers as candidates

Lady Buscombe is now vice-chairman (development); the word "women" has disappeared. It is still her task to flush out women candidates — only one in ten of those going for Tory selection is female — but the 25 per cent quota has vanished. The proposed Conservative women's network has become simply Conservative Network, a mixed organisation spearheaded by Lady Buscombe.

"We don't believe women today want or need to be separated from their male peer group," she says. The notoriously stick-in-the-mud selection committees are being trained to "look at the person, not at the gender". They also have to ask the same questions of each candidate.

Lady Buscombe is even bullish about the fact that the party returned just five new women MPs. "They're all of a fantastic calibre. Calibre means much more to us than gender, and

that's where we differ fundamentally from Labour." Lady Buscombe is the first of many people to tell me what a sad letdown the new Labour women have been. But weren't there some sad letdowns among the men, on all sides of the House? "The focus isn't on the weak men, it's on the weak women," she says, in an exasperated tone.

Labour's brief policy of women-only shortlists has presented the Conservatives with an insoluble problem. They need to be seen to close the gap between Labour's 101 women and their 14 (Jacqui Lait got in at a by-election) but they can't use positive discrimination, not only because it was ruled illegal, but also because the party wouldn't wear it. Denigrating Labour's "quota women" has become a desperate tactic. "I can't believe that I hear this argument," says Tessa

Keswick, the head of the Centre for Policy Studies and a powerful political hostess. "It's a typically sexist observation that just because there are 100 Labour women, they're somehow no good."

Tessa Keswick is one of few women in the party to support some form of positive discrimination. She is pessimistic about the chances, without quotas, of a swift increase in the number of Tory women MPs: "It could take 30 years, if it works at all. The leadership should have been tough in this last consultation process. It was the ideal opportunity to say 'Look, we insist on women being pushed forward in every part of constituency life'."

"When they went round the country they were struck by how the activists did not want any special measures to help women. That's why they took out the figure of 25 per cent. It should have been 50 per cent, in any case. There needs to be a realisation of how the system works, then it needs to be said that it's not good enough."

Talking to Conservative women about discrimination is like discussing cannibalism — it is always happening somewhere else. Theresa May, the Shadow Minister for Women and one of the five new female Conservative MPs, says: "I didn't experience any bad questions, but others did." She suggests that selection committees should include people with business backgrounds, who are used to seeing women in career roles.

Fine, if you fit this notion of a career woman. Mrs Elizabeth Sibley, who stood in the safe Labour seat of North Durham in 1992, did not. She now calls herself Liz St Clair-Legge — they separated the day after the 1992 election.

Although the former Mrs Sibley got through the selection process, she felt that her background in voluntary work had disadvantaged her. "The selection weekend had an alien and artificial environment more suited to someone from the City. I was also questioned closely by one member



Tory stalwarts Ann Widdecombe (above); Theresa May (top); and Peta Buscombe (right)

TOMORROW
Will Labour's laddish inner circle ever hand over power to Blair's babes?

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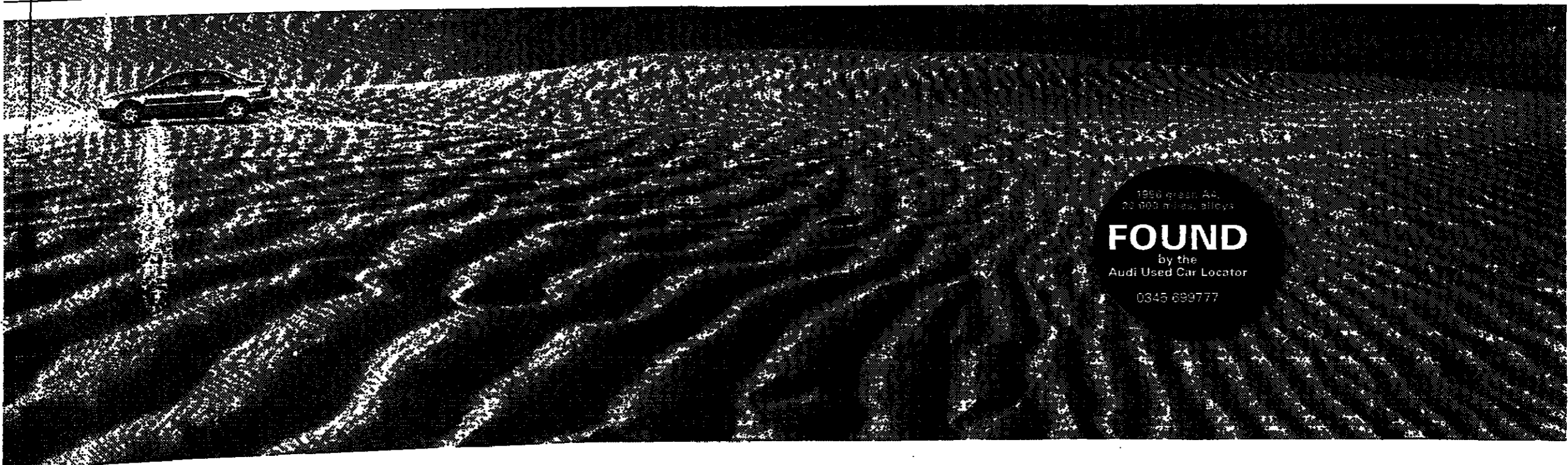
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The suit that dare not speak its name



Above left: black tweed fitted sleeveless shell top, £145, and matching elasticated knee-length skirt, £135, both by Miu Miu, 123 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-409 0900); round Luca ottoman, £59-£99, by Habitat (0645 334433)

Above right: dove grey sleeveless cashmere polo-neck, £560; charcoal deep-V pea jacket, £1,350, and matching trousers, £500. All by Hermès, 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1014)

Right: two-tone three-quarter sleeve shirt, £140, and plum stretch gabardine fluted pencil skirt, £162, both by Boyd (0171-385 7782); green snakeskin stilettos, £285, by Gina Couture; cream Octavia round-end unit, from £649, by Habitat

Main picture: nude pattern-punched sleeveless fitted top, £125, and mulberry pencil skirt, £159, both by Tracy Faith, from Liberty (0171-734 1234); camel siletto heels, £215, by Gina; beige Hamish sofa, from £1,099, by Habitat

Photographer: JOHN SWANNELL
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Debbie Morgan for Jo Hansford
Make-up: Yva Axelsohn
Model: Miele at Select



The working woman's suit has been deconstructed. Its successor is subtle, feminine and intelligent

What did the suit do to deserve the opprobrium that has been heaped on it these past few years? Accused of everything from being unimaginative to a symbol of crass, Eighties-style values, it has become a metaphor for every little setback that has waylaid the female workforce. Slapping up against a glass ceiling? You should never have worn those overbearing wide-shouldered power suits. That bumptious, anything-a-man-can-do-I-can-do-better attitude was bound to end in tears. And yet all the suit ever wanted was to provide women with an easy way to dress. When Coco Chanel introduced matching two-piece outfits in the 1920s, the concept was breathtaking in its daring, minimalist modernity. Finally women could share the liberating certainty that men had enjoyed for years when they went to their wardrobes every morning, secure in the knowledge that a well-cut suit would be functional and stylish — as well as concealing a multitude of physical flaws. And boy, did Coco's tweed-clad girls look chic and

insouciant compared with their fussily trounced-up peers. In fact, for another four decades Chanel's two-piece blueprint did the working woman proud.

We know when the rot set in, of course. If the 1970s were the decade that declared women didn't need anything manish (casting millions of women instead into unflattering pussycat-bow dresses), the 1980s took up the cause of the suit with a vengeance. Armies of clankingly big shoulder pads and inappropriately short skirts that did nothing to advance the cause of Girl Power in the boardroom finally placed the suit in the file marked Laughing Stock.

And so we reach the late 1990s, when only the hopelessly out of date, hidebound or those too broke to buy any new clothes wear suits, and the real

powers that be stalk the land in pencil skirts and cardigans... except that this isn't the whole story. You have only to look at the bevy of Blairite babes to realise that the suit still has a special place in the affections of executive types. And why not?

The point is that the suit works — which is why many designers, years after deconstructing it dead, still pop the occa-

sional one into the slipstream of chiffon, chesecloth and army surplus littering the catwalks (message to buyers: don't worry, there are plenty more in the showroom where this one came from). Since it is fashion's duty to move us all on, the more considerate designers have been thinking up viable alternatives. The cardigan and soft skirt/feminine dress formula was a positive move away from the jacketed suit — and at night and at weekends, nothing is prettier. But there are still times when something sleeker and with a little more presence is called for because, when it comes to the crunch, women haven't struggled with deadlines and juggled with families to find themselves harnessed back into baby-doll outfits — at least not in the office.

Enter the secret suit: the suit that dares not speak its name but does the job every bit as well as its more brazen ancestor. The secret suit might be a fitted shirt and skirt; it could

be a cashmere tunic and trousers; it is definitely a discreetly curvy felt top with hole-punched details, worn with a narrow, below-the-knee dark skirt — and it may even take shape in a beautifully cut dress. You may not even identify it immediately as a suit, although you will recognise its quiet authority and business-like attention to cut and fabric. For whatever its form, the secret suit will possess many virtues of the traditional suit — neatness, a flatteringly tailored silhouette — without looking predictable or clichéd. It will whisper rather than scream its functionalism.

It is not perfect: it does not, in the cheaper stores, always come as a complete kit like the traditional suit — neatness, a flatteringly tailored silhouette — without looking predictable or clichéd. It will whisper rather than scream its functionalism.



Lisa Armstrong
FASHION EDITOR

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Jo Hansford, above, says that Camilla Parker Bowles, whose hair she has tended for the past 15 years, is secretly chuffed that the press has finally decided to cast her in a more attractive light

Camilla's secret weapon

Jo Hansford is used to being thanked profusely by customers. She has this satisfied curl of a smile that actually reaches her eyes when they tell her how-going from peroxide to strawberry blonde, mouse to auburn, blonde to brunette, has changed their lives.

It happened the other week when a dyed-chestnut Rachel Hunter, aka Mrs Rod Stewart, spent a day in the Mayfair salon while Hansford battled for eight hours with the sorry results of Mrs Stewart's last encounter with a Los Angeles stylist.

Happily, they managed to return it to its prelapsarian blonde, and Hunter called Hansford the next day to tell her that her children had got the flaps out. "They were so pleased to have their Mummy back," says Hansford. "They didn't recognise her while she was dark."

This is the lot of today's top hair colourist: one part technician, two parts shrink, six parts regular guest on daytime television and 140 parts demigod. There is a world

Like many public figures, Mrs Parker Bowles relies on Jo Hansford to avoid bad hair days. Interview by Lisa Armstrong

where customers are always clients, where private jets appear from nowhere, with messages inscribed with one poignant little word — "Help" — and where presents from grateful clients are ubiquitous. (Already one of Hansford's protégés in her Mayfair salon has informed his ladies that instead of Gucci knick-knacks this Christmas, he would prefer Hermès.)

The top colourists, of whom Hansford is undoubtedly one, have mythologically long waiting lists: great sprawling lines that criss-cross the globe — two of Hansford's clients fly in regularly from Australia. Natascha McElhone, the star of the film *Ronin*, is a devotee of her salon. "It's a question of trust," says Hansford. "You can grow a bad haircut out in six months but colour can take four years."

She has worked Rachel Hunteresque wonders with



Camilla Parker Bowles

many of the public figures of our times, wading in with a tint-loaded spatula where lesser colourists would run a mile. She transformed David Hemmings's mouse into blond for *Blowup*, ensured that the boot-black locks of *Del Boy* became a plausibly dignified grey when David Jason started playing Inspector Frost, and took Richard Burton from a nasty Hollywood brown to silvery blond when he was cast in the role of Churchill.

"Now that was complicated," she says. "It took several trips to the Chatsworth set. Conditions were so primitive that Richard had to sit on the loo and rest his head on my stomach, which was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, because there was nowhere else that we could work."

When Vidal Sassoon, where she was then working, banned Christine Keeler from the premises, it was Hansford who took pity on her foxy brunette flick-ups by tinting her at home. "She was a nice girl, a lot of fun, and when you think how today the more notorious you are the more fuss gets made of you, it hardly seems fair that Christine couldn't come into the salon."

And it is Hansford who, for the past 15 years, has tended Camilla Parker Bowles's surprisingly glamorous blonde tresses, which have, as the photographs from the Prince of Wales's birthday celebrations at Highgrove reveal, blossomed spectacularly of late. She, too, according to Hansford, is lots of fun. "We share a passion for gardening and our children are the same age, so we talk about that — but she's very private, not at all a bleeding heart."

She cannot be more discreet than Hansford herself. Other than noting that Mrs Parker Bowles is secretly chuffed that the press has finally decided to cast her in a more attractive light (although the funny thing is that she always likes dressing up. It's just that until recently they always chose bad pictures of her on a horse, and you're hardly going to wear a tiara and a ballgown when you're riding to hounds), she

will not be drawn. "You're only as good as your last cut and colour," she notes sagely. And, she might have added, as your last celebrity client list.

In the face of so much human folly, it's a miracle that she remains so ebullient, especially given the cut-throat nature of her world. It is not just the clients weeping over the telephone from the South of France because the on-set hairdresser has messed up their Titian tint, but other hairdressers who can make life what Hansford jauntily describes "a bloodbath".

Her career is ripe for mini-serialisation. After 15 years at Vidal Sassoon, she set up with Daniel Galvin as a junior partner, and for 13 years the two ruled the world of colour (Mrs Parker Bowles was a client then too, but had to stop going there when the Princess of Wales began patronising the place). Then came the fallout: a near court case and bad feelings all round. For two years she had to hire a chair in a friend's salon and wait for the exodus of loyal clients who eventually tracked her down.

Until she was 16 she had never been inside a hairdresser's. What she really wanted was to be a make-up artist. So much so that her mother wrote into *Just the Job*, a popular television show on the now defunct Rediffusion network.

Part of the prize for appearing on the show was an apprenticeship, but because Hansford was too young to take up the position, she filled in for a while at Martin Douglas's, a fashionable salon in Mayfair. Like the trouper she is, she slogged in on the train from Middlesex, swept the floors and observed the exotic swirl of clients. Then, after two weeks, she discovered the tinting room.

Six years ago she opened her own salon in Mayfair and the overheads were horrendous — "but you have to do these things properly". After the first nerve-racking year the business took off, with Jo Hansford products in chemist's shops, a teaching academy due to open next year, seminars in Japan, makeovers on television. She is part of the holy trinity — up there with Nicky (Clarke) and Charles (Worthington) — the first worn hairdresser on her way to being a household name.

To get there she has worked non-stop. When her two children were born, she took three weeks off for each. "Clients are lovely, but can be deeply selfish," she says cheerfully. "They're thrilled that you're pregnant, as long as you can fit their roots in." The workaholic doesn't seem to have affected her relationship with ei-

ther of her children. Her daughter Joanna is, she says, her soulmate. The only time things got fraught was when Joanna returned from Australia with "the worst dye job I've ever seen. I couldn't believe she'd paid money for it."

Although she frets that hairdressing is a young person's game, she shows no signs of snipper's fatigue (she refuses to discuss her age: "If you're

good at history, you can work it out"). It does not worry her that she is just as likely to think of clients in terms of their number (6.4 for mahogany) as their names. Or that she cannot watch American dramas without becoming cross about the lack of continuity in the protagonists' highlights.

And she wouldn't change anything. "When I started you had three choices — peroxide, red or brunette. Now most women colour their hair — you can do anything. Besides, what other job allows you to talk to people about everything and make them happy?"

Designs on Hollywood



FOR years the film industry's antipathy to fashion plotlines rivalled its superstitions about animals and children. Yet lately all that seems to have changed. Of all the projects doing the Hollywood rounds — from Isaac Mizrahi's cartoon book of *Suzanne the Supermodel* to Douglas Keeve's docu-drama of Polly Mellen, the fashion director of *Allure* magazine — perhaps the least likely is the autobiography of Simon Doonan, the legendary window-dresser at Barney's in New York.

Small, camp and talented, Doonan hopes that someone slim and diminutive will be chosen to play him, "perhaps Helen Hunt", he says wickily. With the demise of the supermodel, fashion needs new stars. But massaging window-dressers and fashion editors' egos any further could turn us into a public health hazard.

THE Moët et Chandon-sponsored gala last Tuesday at the V&A in honour of Vivienne Westwood drew the now mandatory eclectic guest list. Apparently no event is complete these days without a politician (Michael Heseltine), a footballer (David Ginola), a Mick (Hucknall and Jaeger), artists — and Japanese buyers (who spent the evening taking photographs of one another). What was interesting — apart from Moët et Chandon's belief that the world needs another fashion award — was how wonderful all the women who had chosen to wear Westwood looked. Her last few shows have not gone down well, and in fashion-speak it isn't really her moment — yet the *décolleté* ballgowns and boned silk evening dresses made the minimalist look drab. So why hasn't it been working on the catwalk lately? Westwood's answer is that it's her responsibility to challenge and provoke, but it does mean that the *gulf* between the shows and what her customers wear is



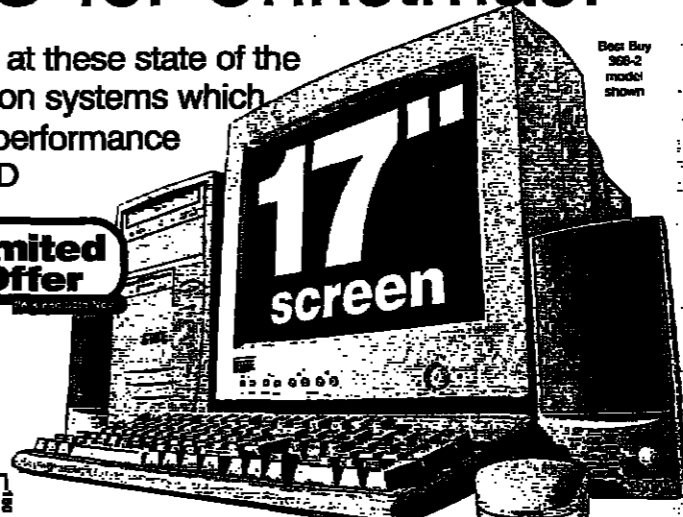
even wider than normal. She's far from being the only designer in this situation, but it still doesn't mean it makes sense.

HILLARY CLINTON has been anointed a fashion winner (viz December's issue of *American Vogue*) after years of being pilloried for her looks. It seems futile to mutter about First Wives being taken on their own merits, yet there does seem to be an unhealthy pattern taking shape here (see Winfrey, Oprah; Parker Bowles, Camilla; Diana, Princess of Wales, et al for more evidence). The truth is that Hillary Clinton has always had her fashion moments, but with the cult of the victim, a *souçon* of public pain has become the chicest new accessory and no public figure can be completely attractive without it.

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THEATRE
Adrian Noble goes into the wardrobe
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
Live and kicking: Del Amitri reviewed
FACING PAGE



Master of the organ

The RSC is making child's play of Stratford for the first time in 30 years, writes Heather Neill



Two actors in one suit: Patrice Naiambana is Aslan and Sevan Stephan his understudy for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* whose author, C.S. Lewis, was born 100 years ago this week

Off to Narnia-upon-Avon

Adrian Noble is in his element, hurrying excitedly from the set model for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to costume drawings of the awe-inspiring lion Aslan and Mr Tumnus the Fawn pinned on the wall of the rehearsal room in southwest London. The designs promise to be magical: there is a country house backdrop, a wardrobe, of course, and a glittering wintry Narnia with Mr Tumnus's house, the Beavers' lodge and a courtyard full of statues —

animals turned to stone by the wicked White Witch. Aslan is commanding and upright, the Witch icy. Father Christmas rubicund. There will be some spectacular effects, but, says Noble: "We can't afford to spend an arm and a leg on the production. So we've thrown imagination at it."

It is 100 years on Sunday since the birth of C.S. Lewis, the author of the Narnia books, childhood favourites of politicians and former Spice Girls. And, despite unfriendly articles by writers such as the children's author Philip Pullman and Lewis's biographer, A.N. Wilson (who claims that Lewis's evangelism caused him to become an atheist), they remain bestsellers.

Adrian Mitchell's new adaptation of Lewis's best-known title will be the first children's show in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Stratford repertoire for 30 years. It will run in tandem with *The Winter's Tale*, using the same company of 30 actors, except that Antony Sher, who plays both the jealous king, Leontes, and the roguish Autolyceus, has no role in Narnia.

The pairing of the plays is part of Noble's long-term policy as artistic director to attract new audiences to RSC productions. He has already reduced the length of the company's London season at the Barbican, introduced differentiated

winter and summer seasons at Stratford, increased touring and established a regular annual residency in Plymouth, while the well-established Newcastle residency has been moved from spring to autumn. All of this has been criticised on financial grounds. Indeed, there have been times in recent years when media coverage has suggested that the RSC could not put a foot right.

Noble seems genuinely positive, however. Change takes time to bear fruit, he says, citing Peter Hall's first three years as artistic director in the early 1960s: "The critics prophesied disaster until *The Wars of the Roses* came along in 1963." And Noble already feels vindicated. "Huge numbers" are, he says, visiting RSC productions for the first time — company publicity claims this one will bring in 40,000 of them. Booking percentages for the residencies in Plymouth and Newcastle are in "the high nineties" and, after breaking box-office records in the regions, the touring production of *Richard III*, with Robert Lindsay as the hunchback, is to open at the Savoy in London in the new year.

Furthermore, Noble says, "the new model allows a flexibility of approach which has enabled us to set up this mini-ensemble for the two plays. It's at the heart of what we do." Rehearsals for *The Winter's Tale* are going on in the same building, with actors moving regularly between Bohemia and Narnia. Noble relishes the bustle. "I met one guy in the loo who said he'd got six different rehearsal calls that morning" — fittings, verse-speaking, fight or voice workshops as well as acting. He thinks the actors, a mixture of new young performers, regulars and RSC heavyweights such as Estelle Kohler (the Witch), find the cross-fertilisation enriching.

Unlike so many of the great and good, Noble was not brought up on Narnia. He read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* as an adult but, when he heard that the rights to *Lion* had become available, he "went into battle" for them — a suitably heroic turn of phrase. He says having two children of his own (he

is married to the actress Joanne Pearce) gave him an added incentive, even though, at four and two, they are a bit young to appreciate his efforts.

Noble has no problem with the Christian allegory to be found in *Lion* which so divides modern adult commentators. "We deal with it in so much as Lewis deals with it in the book: it will not occur to a lot of people to others it resounds all through. We don't emphasise and don't disguise it."

In any case, Aslan is a very un-Anglican Jesus. He's wild and dangerous. He kills. The shepherd of the sheep is not the first thing you think of. Similarly, complaints about the roles afforded the girls, Susan and Lucy, are no stumbling block: "Peter is a hero of *The Eagle* comic, but Lucy is entrusted with a dagger as well as a healing cordial and Susan has a bow and arrows."

The four children are evacuees and the Second World War provides a suitable backdrop for the action, "not in an obvious way, but in a useful one," says Noble. "The basic idea, of course, is the battle between good and evil on a world scale and it provides a strong source of imagery: the tyranny of the Witch, with the wolf, Maugrim, as her head of Gestapo-like secret police; the wrecking of Mr Tumnus's house; the terrorising of the populace, where anyone might be an informer — even, in Narnia, the trees."

We have talked through his lunchbreak, so he dashes off to grab a sandwich. The words "synergy" and "harmony" crop up in his parting shots as he prepares to swap notes on progress with other members of the crew. As you watch Noble at work, a character from another children's classic leaps to mind: the optimistic, over-energetic Tigger.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is in preview from tomorrow at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford (01793 265623); *The Winter's Tale* is in preview from Dec 10

Moral dilemma without end

There was a time (it did not last long) when the acclaimed function of drama lay in offering a solution to a moral dilemma. What is to be done, asks Aeschylus in 463BC, when refugees arrive on one's shore, hotly pursued by a naval force threatening war if they are not immediately returned? "You can't stay," says the Argive king, Pelagius. "But nor can we surrender you."

The suppliants are the daughters of King Danaos of Egypt, betrothed against their will to their cousins, and we have little idea how their story ended because *Suppliants* is the first play of a trilogy. In the play we do have, the end comes as the women are being escorted into Argos and war looms. Legend has it that the Egyptians defeated the Argives and the marriages were enforced, but all but one of the wives killed their husbands on the wedding night.

There are 50 women in the original but James Kerr, translator and director, reduces the number to 14 whom we first hear of onstage, singing the opening chorus in Greek. One by one they emerge from the dark, stepping from red sand on to a tiled floor that is their first glimpse of the reassuring order of Greece. Their voices hum, the vowels soar, the same syllables are repeated over and over until the beauty



of the sound makes one long to rush out and learn Ancient Greek immediately.

One of the women breaks down into an unnervingly convincing paroxysm of grief, and throughout the evening Kerr triumphantly makes the women's plight a matter of vital importance to us. They are alike, yet individuals. They are frightened and keen for life. When the Egyptians scowl at them in macho contempt, Kerr conveys their commands in terse monosyllables — "Bitch! Bitch! Boat! Move!"

With their pursuers ranged at one end of the long, traverse stage and the brooding Pelagius (an assured David Oyelowo) at the other, the women are the rope being tugged by teams that dare not give ground. I was struck by the way they tell their story, not to us, but to comfort one another for having survived so far. Not everything Kerr does is clearly meaningful, but he and Aeschylus create a vigorous, engrossing 80 minutes.

JEREMY KINGSTON
On Friday I gave the wrong Christian name to the author of *Backroom*, who is Adrian Pagan. Apologies to all Pagans, and Adrian in particular.

A bit stale, mate

THE dusky sky of Holborn glowed blue with the reflected glints of a thousand cans of Foster's lager; never has the air of London rung with such a concentrated display of pincer vowels. Give or take 20 degrees centigrade here or there, it was like a little taste of the Antipodes in Central London. Jimeoin, in case you hadn't noticed, is big in Australia. Very big.

On the other side of the world, Jimeoin does television and records and films: he is perhaps their Eddie Izzard, or their Steve Coogan. He doesn't dress in women's clothing, or pretend to be a Norwich disc jockey; Jimeoin's style is a little more down-home than that. Indeed, in his latest film he apparently plays an Irish bloke in Australia, which is essentially what he is. With the emphasis on "bloke," as in "bloke down the pub," "nice bloke" or "bloke off the telly."

His material is essentially meat and two veg observational humour. He does some jokes about men having a pee which deliver everything you could want from a man-having-a-pee joke. There's a lot of funny business with his face; how Americans talk with their teeth, which phrases you have to say with your eyebrows raised and why you have to keep your eyes closed when you dance (an observation that I had hitherto assumed

Jimeoin
Cochrane, WC1

Frank Zappa took with him to the grave). Occasionally flashes of something rather inspired came through; there was a nicely performed piece about coughing into your hand, putting your hands in your pockets then all the coughs of the day falling out again when you took your trousers off. Just when things seem to be going right, however, he seemed to undercut himself with something a little too commonplace, a "never go shopping when you're hungry" or "a why do seagulls never bump into each other?"

The one real gem of the evening was about a woman who misheard the news reports in the middle of the night and thought that the car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, had been caused by a motorbike-mounted Pavarotti. Beyond that, however, the show lacked sparkle. The audience was so busy taking photographs it didn't seem too bothered, and I suppose neither was Jimeoin. He always has Australia, after all, and at the end of the day he still seems like a nice enough bloke.

HETTIE JUDAH



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SEVERAL Dance Umbrellas ago Doug Elkins was a promising young choreographer, charged with vitality and a crowd of ideas snatched from everywhere. He epitomised today's non-hierarchical view of culture, mixing the high with the low. He spiced classical music with reggae and radio advertisements. He moulded his movement out of all kinds of techniques — ballet and breakdance, martial arts and Graham. He structured his pieces as a series of scraps, because he said his generation had the short attention span of television zappers.

He still produces these mixtures to the loud delight of his fans. Unfortunately, with age has come a smoothing-down of the contrasts, an ironing-out of the edginess into a porridge of bland monotony. *Roda*, a solo eliciting Elkins's only stage appearance, had the virtue of shortness (four minutes) and of arriving first on the programme, before we could become jaded. Elkins, in a pool of light, blended the parabolic combat kicks of Brazilian capoeira with liquid swivels and vertical trickers, arms juggling

Diluted by the blender

DANCE
Doug Elkins
Queen Elizabeth Hall

invisible balls or swatting imaginary insects. Danced with Elkins's powerful fluency and set to Antonio Carlos Jobim's catchy Brazilian rhythms, the piece had an engrossing continuum.

But then came two company pieces and 70 more minutes of much the same. The choreography of *Bipolarbear NOS* looked as if the food processor had been switched on too long, reducing the different components to a puree. As a result, al-

though the eight dancers worked hard, they made little impact, not helped by the synthesized yards of Evren Celim's boring score. It took a real effort of will to look for particularities in this wash: I noted changes of lighting, that one man was aggressive and that another couple flipped over each other's backs.

But I had long lost interest and by the time *Narcotopic Lovers* came I wanted to go home. Made in 1995, this piece belonged to Elkins's earlier, more colourful manner and was an improvement. A greater emphasis on ballet geometries meant the movement was less of a blur; well-defined architectural groupings helped to individualise the various sections, their differences pointed up by sound that veered wildly from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* to a Lenny Bruce monologue. But it was too late and anyway it wasn't good enough. I hope Elkins will take a serious look at what it takes to effect the transition from promising young choreographer to middle-aged must-see.

NADINE MEISNER

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Master of the organ

This was a recital with a difference, but then Simon Preston has always been an organist with a difference...

CONCERT Simon Preston 60th Birthday Smith Square

With typical generosity, Preston shared the programme with the virtuoso trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger...

But there were exclamations elsewhere, not least in Petr Eben's Chagall Windows, a suite of four movements characterised by rippling colours and restless energy...

JOHN ALLISON



Donald Maxwell (Don Perlimpin) and Patricia Rozario (Belisa) in the premiere of Simon Hol's opera by Opera North

What's the point?

The Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival is this year celebrating its 21st birthday. That is an extraordinary achievement and tribute to the vision and determination of its founder, Richard Steinitz...

Opera The neatness of this being the poet's centenary, it was predictable that he should have chosen to set one of his plays, fashioning his own libretto from David Johnson's translation of The Love of Don Perlimpin for Belisa in his Garden (1928)...

Welcome to the melody machine

The release of a retrospective album often leaves a band at a career crossroads. With a glorious past in the rear view mirror, they must now look in all directions at once and select an exit that leads back to the main drag...

Love at first sight

CYNICS may argue that as the son of the late jazz trumpeter Don Cherry, and brother of the hip-hop starlet Neneh, Eagle-Eye Cherry didn't have to knock too hard on the door of pop stardom before it was opened to him...

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE Adultery among friends: Imogen Stubbs in Pinter's Betrayal at the Lyttelton



DANCE William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet makes its UK debut at Sadler's Wells



FILM George Clooney goes on the run in the offbeat crime caper Out of Sight



MUSIC At the Barbican the grand old man of American music, Elliott Carter, is 90

al dilemma thout end

Suppliants Gate, W11

When I first saw the play, I was struck by the way the actors were able to convey the sense of a long, arduous journey...

it stale, mat

timecin

It was a pleasure to see the play, and to see the actors in such a state of mind. The production was well thought out and the actors were excellent.

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ENTERTAINMENTS LISTINGS TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION PLEASE. A grid of small advertisements for various theatre productions, including 'The Woman in Black', 'The Phantom of the Opera', 'The Complete History of America', 'The Complete History of the World', 'The Complete History of the Universe', etc.

Don't betray our Trust to the townies

Roger Scruton on an unlikely danger to Britain's rural tradition

The future of rural Britain is in doubt. There is one overriding cause of this, which is that the land belongs to people who do not live in it. Everything — crops, management, wildlife, building, habitats — is controlled from elsewhere. The family farm is dying, killed off by an economic system in which supermarkets and agribusinesses call the shots. The result is a landscape where wildlife and human life are no longer in balance, and where the centuries-old pattern of fields, farms and boundaries is giving way to a uniform mechanised prairie.

Public money that has created this disaster — in particular, two longstanding policies which no government has had the courage to question. The first is that of subsidising production rather than residence. The consequences are many: absentee investment, large-scale monoculture, rising land prices, the amalgamation of farms, the destruction of habitats, the collapse of mixed farming and the disappearance of the self-sustaining family farm. No body benefits apart from the landlord — who may never have visited the place which he despoils.

The second destructive policy is that of raising punitive taxes on inheritance. The inherited estate is a residence, a home, a place of dwelling. It is burdened by responsibilities to neighbours, to history and to a way of life. It is a functioning part of the natural and social ecology, a centre of hospitality and an expression of a commitment from generation to generation to stay put on the land. The threat of death duties wrests the estate from the person who is most likely to maintain it, and transfers it to the National Trust. There is no tax benefit to the State, but only a new burden on the taxpayer, who cannot bear to see the work of centuries undone and therefore gives money to the trust as the sole protector of our rural heritage.

As a result, the National Trust, while acting as steward of the traditional landscape, has become the third largest landowner in the country (after the Ministry of Defence and the Forestry Commission). Hence, while doing everything possible to save the landscape from the effects of absentee ownership, the trust has itself become one of the greatest absentee owners. And the strain is now beginning to show.

The trust recently went through the most turbulent AGM in its 100-year existence, facing down one motion after another condemning its attitude to the land, to its neighbours, and to its donors. By mobilising the proxy votes, its council was able to defeat the various motions by a comfortable margin (roughly 50,000 to 30,000). By trust standards, this is a serious groundswell of discontent.

The underlying issue was

the trust's decision, following a report commissioned from Professor Patrick Bateson, of Cambridge University, to ban the staghounds from its properties. The report, which argues that staghunting is cruel, is widely and hotly contested. Nevertheless, those who commissioned it can hardly throw it in the bin. The trust, whose membership consists largely of urban people who have never had to manage wild animals, finds itself in a corner from which there is no easy escape, save by excluding the staghounds from its properties.

From this small and local conflict has arisen an urgent and far-reaching question: just what is the National Trust for? In banning the staghounds, it is consciously alienating its neighbours, sabotaging the ecology of Exmoor and, most importantly, defying the express or implied wishes of its donors. Should it have taken those factors into consideration?

This ban on hounds defies the express wish of donors

And, if so, how? Donors of property to the trust are usually resident landlords, who dwell as neighbours among neighbours, care for the natural and social ecology and welcome the trust as the saviour of a way of life which would, otherwise, be threatened by the sale and division of their estates. The trust has acted in good faith, taking on the social and economic burdens of rural life, while offering public access to the countryside. Donors have insisted that activities such as staghunting, which integrate private estates into the local community, should continue, regardless of the attitude of those who come from afar. And the trust has respected such wishes, recognising that its duty is to preserve a living landscape, and not a varnished replica.

While rescuing and subsidising the local economy, however, the trust also colonises it, importing its own rules and regulations, its own colonial visitors, its own metropolitan lifestyle and law. Like Britain, the trust has acquired an empire in a "fit of absent-mindedness". It does its best to look after the natives: but it is controlled by its members, who are not natives. The conflict over stag hunting expresses the inexorable logic of the trust's position, and the anger of the Exmoor farmers is a special case of the resentment felt by all colonised people towards the power which controls them from afar.

The mission of the trust is to maintain the landscape and the life that grows in it. It should not rule by metropolitan decrees, but listen, as all country dwellers must listen, to the complaints and wishes of tenants and neighbours. Otherwise it will stand with those other more rapacious absentees, who are driving the farmer and the wildlife from the land, and who respond to the growing public alarm with smiling silence.

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The markets may have bounced back, but the public senses a darker economic picture

We haven't seen the worst of it

The London stock market is behaving in a very odd way. Last Thursday and Friday were two of the most contradictory days I can remember. Normally, bad news makes prices fall. Last week was a bad news week, yet in the last two days markets rose strongly: on Thursday by 132 points on the FTSE 100 index and by 111 points on Friday. There was a similar movement on Wall Street, though there the news was more encouraging.

The bad news included a number of cautionary statements and profit warnings from business. There were at least 15 of them, perhaps even more; they included substantial companies such as British Steel and Northern Foods. Retail sales fell in October, bringing them down to less than 1 per cent above the previous October. The OECD forecasts for growth, both in Britain and in the whole OECD, were reduced. The Federal Reserve made a further cut in US interest rates, suggesting it is still very worried about the world banking system.

The power of consumption is democratic: retail purchases are made by virtually every adult and by older children. We largely buy in the same shops, typically in the supermarkets and in Marks and Spencer. Even a generation ago, there may have been some survival of the fittest among the retail trade and the rest. Now Harrods is no more than a tourist shop and a local Knightsbridge retailer; it is not what modern retailing is about. When retail trade turns down, that means we are all feeling more cautious.

The UK stock market is not a popular one in this sense; it is dominated by institutional investors. They do, indeed, ultimately obtain their funds from the rest of us through life assurances, pension funds and so on. These savings are

largely, but not wholly, contractual: some institutional investment is based on non-contractual unit trusts. In the United States — and this is a major difference between London and Wall Street — a much higher proportion of institutional investment comes through the mutual funds, subject to the surges and declines of public support.

Last July, when the world stockmarkets peaked, the institutional investors did indeed become very

concerned. They already felt that share prices were very high. On July 22 Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave warning that interest rates might have to be raised to prevent wage inflation; on August 17 Russia defaulted on domestic debt; in late August the US Treasury stock fell and the yen rose in an unprecedented week's trading; on September 23 Long Term Capital Management had to be bailed out. The Fed has cut interest rates three times since then, appearing to know some bad news which we have not yet been told.

Institutional and private investors at first reacted in the same way: London and Wall Street had a synchronised fall. In America there were withdrawals from the mutual funds, though confidence has recovered. In Britain, the institutional investors did not sell; they stopped buying, which meant that the market was bound to fall because a trickle of small sales pushed prices down. Even a private investor could affect the share price of many of the smaller companies on the London market by selling only a few thousand shares. Although the institutions largely stopped buying in August and September, the cash did not stop flowing in. People do not cancel their pension arrangements because they feel worried about the stock market.

By the end of September the institutions had a growing pile of cash on their hands, which was going to have to be invested at some time. On October 15 the second rate cut by the Fed convinced both the UK institutions and the US mutual fund investors that there was more danger in being left out of the rally than in going back into the market.

Members of the public are not now behaving like the institutions. They are following the economic news. Despite what the Governor of the Bank of England says, hard news matters much more than the pessimism or optimism of the commenta-

tors. People are feeling cautious, about future business profits, about Asia, about world trade, about a possible credit crunch, about their own jobs. This public attitude is shown in the housing market, which turned down in August, but has not rallied with the stock market in late October and November. People buy houses; fund managers buy shares.

The institutional investors still have their flow of funds to invest. They, rather than the public, are moving the market because their favoured shares in big companies have recovered disproportionately to smaller company shares, which private investors often prefer. The 100-share FTSE index has recovered to within 7 per cent of its July record high; the small capital index is still 28 per cent below its record high of last May. Just as there are private and institutional investors, there are now two stock markets, one of which has failed to rally anything like as much as the other.

Some commentators have assumed that the threat of recession has been removed, just because the stock market has rallied. This is not a safe assumption. The economy depends on the broad public confidence which supports retail trade. The evidence is that this public confidence has fallen since last July and has not yet recovered. Retail sales themselves, the CBI survey of business confidence, the housing market, the small capital share prices, all point in the same direction. There may be a recession next year; there will almost certainly be a slowdown. There is no reason not to cut interest rates further, and, indeed, it looks to be necessary. The British economy is not ruled by institutional investors, but by the British public.

William Rees-Mogg

worried. They already felt that share prices were very high. On July 22 Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave warning that interest rates might have to be raised to prevent wage inflation; on August 17 Russia defaulted on domestic debt; in late August the US Treasury stock fell and the yen rose in an unprecedented week's trading; on September 23 Long Term Capital Management had to be bailed out. The Fed has cut interest rates three times since then, appearing to know some bad news which we have not yet been told.

My lords, you are history

The Tories of the Lords have signed their own death warrant, says Peter Riddell



The power of the House of Lords is a sham. Once used and exposed, its credibility is destroyed. The Lords has survived only because peers have accepted limits on the exercise of their powers. They can ask the Commons to think again, once even perhaps twice. Any further resistance upsets the balance between the elected and the unelected House, as Lord Weatherill, convenor of the crossbench peers and former Commons Speaker, has argued. But this self-restraint was abandoned last week when government proposals on European elections were defeated by the Lords for an unprecedented fifth time.

This action has changed the whole debate about the Lords, creating problems both for William Hague, with his ill-judged threat of continued defiance, and for the Government's Bill to remove the voting rights of hereditary peers that will dominate tomorrow's Queen's Speech.

In theory, the Lords has the same powers over legislation as the Commons, with two exceptions. First, the Upper House has no power to alter financial measures and, secondly, under the 1949 Parliament Act, it can delay legislation only by a year from the date of the original second reading in the Commons. However, under the Salisbury doctrine, put forward in 1945 by the grandfather of Viscount Cranborne, the present Tory leader in the Lords, peers have accepted that they will not oppose legislation foreshadowed in the governing party's manifesto, though they reserve the right to make amendments. This is what they originally did over the European Elections Bill. The commitment to a proportional system of election featured in Labour's manifesto, but not

the controversial closed-list system. So the Lords were working within existing conventions in their original amendment in favour of open lists. However, as every authority on the Lords has written, the Upper House almost invariably backs down if its amendments are then rejected by the Commons. The Lords asks the Commons to think again: MPs reaffirm their original view and their lordships reluctantly accept the verdict of the elected House. (The vast majority of amendments in the Lords come from the Government, so the House is really a long-stop to correct legislative shortcomings.) Occasionally, there have been two exchanges between the two Houses, but never five. Apart from the exceptional case of war crimes legislation in 1989-91, the last occasions when the Lords

RIDELLEN ON MONDAY

failed to reach agreement with the Commons were in 1975-77 over union rights and aircraft and shipbuilding nationalisation. While the Parliament Act procedures were invoked, they were not used since agreement was reached with the Lords after their reintroductions. And, unlike now, the then Labour Government barely had a majority in the Commons.

So, however much Labour has mishandled the European Bill by appearing too centralist, the Tories have broken longstanding conventions, as some of their Lords leaders have recognised. (My hunch is that Tory peers will allow the reintroduced Bill through in the new year.)

But by exercising their latent powers, the peers have signed their own death warrants as legislators.

Labour's intention to remove the voting rights of hereditary peers does not, however, deal with the question of powers. The Labour manifesto blithely stated that the legislative powers of the Lords will remain unaltered. But that is nonsense. What the authors of the manifesto presumably meant was that the current conventions on the exercise of the powers would not change, which is highly improbable.

Baroness Jay of Paddington, Leader of the Lords, told peers last month that she had "no hesitation in asserting that the transitional chamber [before wider reform] will be more legitimate than that we have today". Legitimacy is a bit strong

since, as Stuart Weir and David Beetham argue in their impressive new study *Political Power and Democratic Control in Britain*: "A House in which appointed peers hold the majority is as democratically unacceptable as one in which a mix of hereditary and appointed members hold sway, and is likely to have no independent legitimacy on which to check the executive."

However, such a transitional chamber would probably feel more self-confident and less inhibited about using its powers. The main weakness of Labour's plan is precisely the opposite of the Tory charge about "Tony's cronies". The interim House will not be a supine servant of the Government, but is likely, rather, to become a thorn in its side. In any event, Labour currently has just three in ten life peers and the Government has promised that it will not seek a majority through new creations, while the Prime Minister will no longer have the sole power of patronage in appointing peers.

The strongest Tory argument is not a defence of hereditary peers but about what follows. The Government not only has to nail down assurances about new peers and over the timetable for the proposed royal commission, but ministers also need to indicate their own thinking. This is as much about powers and functions as composition.

There is no shortage of possible schemes, but all must be based on relations with the Commons. There is a strong case for a second chamber acting as a check on the Commons on constitutional and human rights issues, especially as we develop a quasi-federal structure. Any arrangements will, however, require formal procedures to resolve conflicts between the two Houses. The old world of self-denying restraints was blown away last week by the short-sighted impetuosity of the Tory leadership.

A one-day conference, *The Crisis of Strong Government*, organised by *Democratic Audit* and sponsored by *The Times* and *Charter 88*, will be held in London on Thursday to mark the publication of Stuart Weir and David Beetham's book *Details: 0171 654 3351*.

On the team

GEORGE GRAHAM has finally been accepted by the Spurs faithful: Charlie Whelan is inviting the Tottenham Hotspur manager for dinner at Westminster. The move by Gordon Brown's bracing spin-doctor, a fanatical Spurs fan, will reassure Graham, a former Arsenal man, that the mobs at White Hart Lane are warming to him. "I am helping to form the Westminster Spurs Association," says Whelan, whose "shadowy" role as the Chancellor's master-briber is to be investigated by a Lords select committee. "Graham will be invited to join us. There are loads of fans around here. We haven't had our first meeting yet, but we will hold regular events in the new year."

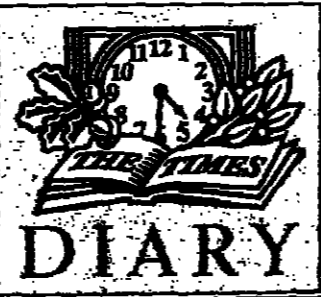
Current Spurs players, such as David Ginola, Sol Campbell and Darren Anderson, as well as Whelan's chum, Paul Miller — a defender from the club's chippy days — will also be asked to join Whelan in his off-note renditions of terrace songs. He might also call Andrew Turnbull, the Spurs-supporting Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, but Gordon (pictured with Graham) is unlikely to come: he is stubbornly wedded to those Celtic battles, Dunfermline FC.

I suggest Graham glosses over his days at Highbury — Whelan has a long memory: "The Independent once described me as an Arsenal supporter," he growls, obviously still haunted by the memory. "I insisted on a full



correction for an outrageous slur on my character."

UPPER lips were stiffer than usual at a recent meet of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds. John Colethorpe, a supporter and former chairman of the Tiverton Staghounds, keeled over from a massive cardiac arrest and died instantly. This did nothing to quench the hunt's hunger for the chase — the beat continued.



"Among hunting people this is relatively normal," says Tom Yardie, the hunt's chairman. "If he had been an official, things would have been different — we would have packed up and gone home."

Stitch-up

The queen of punk has crossed corsets with the monarch's dress-maker. Vivienne Westwood claims Sir Hardy Amies is always hostile towards her: "I don't know what I've done, but he doesn't seem to like me," wails Vivienne (pictured). "I tried to talk to him a while ago, and he just turned on his heel and walked away." Sir Hardy admits he is no admirer of Ms Westwood. "Fashion should be evolutionary, not revolutionary," he says. "And Vivienne's clothes are painfully revolutionary."

GEORGE MICHAEL, that subtly Greek, must have triggered something in the national psyche. One Chrysostomos Synetos of Zakynthos, an Orthodox bishop, has flapped the robes of colleagues by hailing the merits of pre-marital sex in Penthouse. As he says: "The word of God has to be spread everywhere."

Low interest

LORD WEIDENFELD and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild have been squabbling about a book on the banker's family. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, the publisher's imprint, asked Niall Ferguson, the Oxford historian, to write *The World's Banker: The History of the House*



of Rothschild but, realising it would be no great page-turner, persuaded the Rothschilds to pay part of Ferguson's advance and buy 5,000 copies. According to *Prospect* magazine, the project went to plan until Sir Evelyn received a copy. He was so upset by the reproduction of a portrait of Anthony, his father, that he suggested he might buy the family copies. Weidenfeld's countered that the Rothschilds had provided the original image, and tempers were at last soothed.

ALAN CLARK'S ancestors were an uncompromising lot. My old friend tells me the story behind an unfinished family painting by Labery. Clark's grandfather commissioned the painting of his wife with his son Kenneth, but she "didn't think she looked attractive enough," so grandpa refused to pay the full amount. Labery retaliated by blacking the lady out.

Home front

IT IS not often that the Diary adventures north of the park, but I have just been lured to a splendid new club in Portman Square. The Georgian affair (you know, billowy curtains, attentive slaves and discreet bedrooms inviting an afternoon snore) is the former home of



ALL SAINTS, that gaggle of celebrity girlfriends who sometimes sing, have decided on the "best bits" of their pop success. "Oh, the free drinks, definitely," says Nicole Appleton, one of the blondes in the group (pictured above with a new friend), while Melanie Blatt — now the mother of a three-day-old daughter — tells *High Life* magazine that she relishes the "free trainers".

the Courtauld Institute. It was here, you might recall, that builders renovating the joint found a bug in the quarters of our old friend Anthony Blunt. Home House, Laurence Isaacson's latest prodigious project, was built for the then Countess of Home, ancestor of the late PM, Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Slickers prefer the house to be pronounced "Hume", but the Courtauld took a dislike to the clan, and the name has been deliberately mispronounced ever since. As Laurence explains: "I want to attract Americans. They wouldn't understand these eccentricities." Just so.

LORD LICHFIELD has been slapped with a writ by an irate co-tenant. The royal photographer has been named in an action by a fellow leaseholder in an apartment block in London's Holland Park: a company called Benin Limited is suing Lichfield and the owner of the block "for damages occasioned by negligence". Intriguing. "The matter is in the hands of his solicitors," says a Lichfield aide. "It is a private matter and it will be defended." I'm sure he hasn't been misbehaving.

JASPER GERARD



BROWNING THE LAND

Britain is too beautiful to be built over

For decades after the war, British transport was planned on a policy of "predict and provide" — predict traffic growth and provide the extra roads for the cars to drive upon. It took an age for Government to realise that the building of new roads fuelled rather than satisfied the excess demand: it allowed people to live further away from their work and to commute longer distances. The same mistake is being made in housebuilding. If John Prescott is not careful, Britain could be concreted over in a generation. To be fair to him, the Environment Secretary is aware of the dangers. He has already decreed that 60 per cent of new homes should be built on "brownfield" sites in towns and cities, rather than in the countryside. But still the total forecast for new homes is rising. The original prediction was that 4.4 million would be needed by 2016 to accommodate the increase in single people, divorcees, elderly people and immigrants. Now, apparently, the Government is likely to raise its forecast to five million in the new year. An area the size of Newcastle will need to be built upon to meet the demand in the South of England alone. But why should the demand necessarily be met? There is an interaction between the supply and demand for homes. Just as new roads encourage traffic, so "affordable" housing encourages new households to form. Adults leave home far earlier in Britain than in other countries — because they can afford to. But there is no inalienable right for young single people to live away from their parents. Nor, if they do, should they necessarily expect to have their own house or flat. There are plenty of spare bedrooms in bigger houses, for instance, that could be let out to lodgers. All the forces that cause increased household formation are ones that tend to be socially undesirable. Family

breakdown, for instance, leads to higher demand for new homes. So does the trend for elderly people to live away from their families. A Government that is supposedly committed to reducing the divorce rate and encouraging adults to look after their ageing parents should not, at the same time, be building new homes to accommodate this social fragmentation. The implementation of this policy is both illogical and old-fashioned in its highly centralised planning. First the Government projects the likely number of new households on highly dubious assumptions about social trends. Then it divides up the increase between counties and orders each one to build a certain number of homes. For counties with large urban areas, it may be easy to find 60 per cent of brownfield sites on which to allow development. But for, say, Somerset or Norfolk, it is well nigh impossible. Meanwhile, the new homes not only destroy the character and beauty of the English countryside. They also create new traffic, new waste, new pollution, new noise and new roads. And they deplete scarce resources, such as water. To oppose this building is not nimbysism — it should not be allowed to take place in anybody's rural backyard. The "predict and provide" roads policy finally met its end through a combination of public sector financial stringency and popular protest. Property development, unfortunately, does not deplete public funds — indeed it can be a way for local councils to make money. So the public protest has to be all the louder. If we want to save the beauty and way of life of Britain's glorious countryside, the people must let the politicians know. Labour is predominantly an urban party: it needs to understand the balance between city and country life on this precariously crowded island.

ABYSSINIAN HEIRLOOMS

The treasures of Ethiopia should be put on public display

On April 13, 1868, the bizarre plans of Emperor Theodore II of Abyssinia lay in tatters. His efforts to build a bulwark against Islam had been blocked by Queen Victoria, who had failed to reply to his proposals of marriage. When he had taken British hostages in order to attract her attention, the Queen had sent an army instead of a ring. Besieged in his Magdala fortress, defeated, deranged and alone, he shot himself with a pistol, a gift from his inamorata. Two days later the treasures of the Abyssinian Church and Crown were laid out on the hillside and auctioned off to reward the victors. It is thought that most of those manuscripts and antiquities are now in the hands of British museums. And Addis Ababa wants them back. Booty has been a principal perk of war for as long as war has existed. Roman legionaries carried axes and chains to remove statues, while Wellington's soldiers packed pliers to pull the teeth of the dead. First World War Tommies did a brisk business in German helmets and belt buckles. State treasures have always been fair game. The Koh-i-noor (or Mountain of Light) diamond was looted from Delhi by a Shah of Iran, surrendered to Sikhs by a refugee claimant to the Afghan throne, and seized by the Honourable East India Company on its annexation of the Punjab in 1849. Given to Queen Victoria, it is now the central stone in the Queen's State Crown. And the four horses of St Mark's in Venice, a durable symbol of Venetian independence removed by Napoleon in 1797, were Venetian booty from the sack of Byzantium in 1204. It is by no means certain that Theodore did not amass his own collection by

plunder from recalcitrant Abyssinian potentates. Every museum in the country is under pressure to return items to their countries of origin. Many fear that exhibiting certain artefacts will simply remind aggrieved descendants of where they lie. The long-running row over the Elgin Marbles, though unique in many respects, is not the only quarrel over ownership of the human past. China is making noises about the early Buddhist artefacts removed by Aurel Stein from Central Asia, while only last week Glasgow council decided to return a Ghost Dance shirt, a relic of the Wounded Knee massacre, to the Sioux of South Dakota. The problem is a global one. The treasures Schliemann excavated from Troy disappeared from Berlin in 1945, only to reappear at the Hermitage in St Petersburg. Meanwhile, art collections all over the world are holding their breath, hoping courts will not force them to surrender legitimately purchased paintings confiscated by the Nazis from private collections. Even the most scrupulous museums have obtained their collections from any number of sources. Every artefact will have been a trophy of war, bought for a derisory sum, or simply stolen, at some stage in its history. The tragedy of Magdala is not that the people of Ethiopia have been denied their heritage — a trauma common to peoples all over the world — but that these treasures have, by and large, been hidden from the public for so long. If the British institutions which hold the treasures of Magdala wish to retain them, they must put them on view. Ethiopia has too long and interesting a history for its glories to remain hidden from public view.

HISTORY LESSONS

Civilisation's core and the core curriculum

To be ignorant of what happened before one was born is to remain a child for the whole of one's life. It is good news that history is being put back on the core curriculum for junior pupils. It should never have been taken off it. As we report today, by the millennium history will become compulsory again for children aged between 8 and 11. A fierce debate is now being conducted by teachers, educational administrators and historians over whether it should be brought back for children between 5 and 7 also. The answer should be a clear and positive one. The problem with a core curriculum is what it pushes out to the periphery. The Government's policy to improve core skills by literacy and numeracy hours is both necessary and commendable. But because reading, writing and arithmetic are given official priority, these subjects tend to be taught early in the morning, when young children are at their most receptive. By the time that the class reaches subsidiary subjects such as history (if it does), the pupils may be comatose after school lunch. Because history is not compulsory, schools often pick its easiest topics and periods instead of teaching a balanced curriculum. History may be the one academic subject that sparks the imagination of boys who have fallen, in such disturbing numbers, to the back of the class. Old-fashioned history-teaching can be mocked, as in 1066 and All That. Today's teachers find much more to history than

kingdoms and battles. But "Willy, Willy, Harry, Stee, Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three..." and the other infant mnemonics built a grid in the memory against which to measure the past. British children who know nothing of Magna Carta, Parliament, the Industrial Revolution and the struggles for emancipation and reform are cut off from their national heritage. The facts and legends of history make them what they are. And young children learn best by stories of national heroes and heroines, triumphs and disasters. Nations write their autobiographies in three volumes: the book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their art. None of them can be understood without reading the other two. Ruskin would have said that the only completely trustworthy one was the last. But without some knowledge of them, a British child might as well come from Japan — or Mars, since Japanese children are probably as well taught about the Tudor merchant venturers as they are about Shakespeare. Other countries such as France and America treat their histories as a core of education and citizenship. For a human life is no better than that of a lesser animal unless it is woven into the life of its ancestors by the records of history. Writing, reading and computers are essential tools. But history is more than a tool and a pleasure. It is a subject that defines us all. All should be taught it from their parent's knee until the age of 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Vital debate' on drugs in schools

From Detective Inspector Ian Robinson
Sir, The Schools Standards Minister, Estelle Morris, is to be commended on opening a vital debate on the use of drugs in schools (report, November 17; letters, November 18). Research suggests a majority of young people experiment with drugs. Exclusion from school is unlikely to change this, and could well create further problems. It is significant that 98 per cent of males permanently excluded find themselves involved in crime, as do 75 per cent of those temporarily excluded. Exclusion is, of course, a legitimate option for a school, but only as the last resort, not the standard response. Is it right for schools, by exclusion, to dump a problem on the community, increasing the likelihood of the young person moving on to more crime or more serious crime? I believe it is reasonable to expect them to tackle the problem — with appropriate police involvement — internally, where it can often be dealt with much more effectively. There is a range of other options which schools might take up. Some schools have introduced random drug testing. In Thames Valley our work on restorative justice — which involves confronting offenders directly with the consequences of their actions for other people, including their family, peer group and (as in this case) their school community — is now being used in our work with schools to find solutions to the problem of drugs in schools. It is vital we debate these issues, but it is difficult when schools understandably feel unwilling to discuss how they deal with drug incidents for fear of bad publicity. I hope Estelle Morris's comments will now allow debate to take place openly and objectively.

I am a great fan of the Internet. It is less passive than television, more instructive than computer games. It is an unparalleled educational tool, and has vast religious possibilities. Through it I and my children are able to read and hear talks given throughout the world on the week's Bible readings. We can take part in international discussion groups on problems of Jewish law and life. The Internet links families, friends

From Dr D. J. T. Wright
Sir, Well done, Estelle Morris! Expelling children from school for possessing or smoking cannabis is a ridiculously extreme punishment. It is a nonsense to punish an activity that is illegal because of the (very small) risk that it may ruin someone's life by taking action that will certainly ruin that person's life in a far more serious way. Most teenage children take illegal drugs at some time. The vast majority are none the worse for it. I do not condone this, any more than any other illegal activities teenagers get up to, but it is ridiculous to pretend the facts are otherwise. The problems of identifying offenders means only the tiny minority unlucky enough or silly enough to get caught will be expelled. But logically, if we are to expel any teenage children for this activity, then surely we should expel all of them. Yours sincerely, DAVID WRIGHT, Yew Tree House, Longparish, Andover, Hampshire SP11 6PT, November 18.

From Mrs Denise Williams
Sir, It was with great interest that I read your report (November 16) about the collection of rare stamps found among the papers of the late Hammond Innes. He may not have been "known as a stamp collector", but he did publish a novel in 1980, titled *Solomon's Seal*, centred around an imaginary priceless stamp. My husband, Norman Williams, was asked for (and gave) his advice on the philatelic details at the time. Perhaps Mr Innes had more than a passing interest in stamps. Yours faithfully, DENISE WILLIAMS, 6 Lakeland Close, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 6TL, November 19.

From Mrs Denise Williams
Sir, It is surprising that in your obituary of Svetlana Beriosova (November 13) no mention is made of her remarkable partnership over many years with Donald MacLeary. He was the perfect partner for her, an elegant dancer, tall, handsome, and matching completely her style and personality. Ballerinas are dependent on sensitive and strong partnering. Svetlana would have been the first to pay tribute to her longstanding partner who provided these qualities in full measure. Yours faithfully, JOHN TOOLEY, 163a High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5AN, November 17.

A moral basis for Conservatism

From the Reverend Michael Windridge
Sir, Having begun ordination training during the closing stages of Mrs Thatcher's premiership, I can identify with William Hague's sentiments when he argued in his recent speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship (preview, November 16): All too often senior clerics have appeared to assume the moral superiority of a collectively approach to politics and seemed ready to impose the most basic of motives to those of us who hold to a Conservative view of the economy and society. As an executive member of my local Conservative association, and a prospective candidate for next May's local government elections, I can assure your readers that my Conservative colleagues here in South Norfolk are just as anxious, compassionate and public-spirited a group of individuals as found in any parish congregation I have previously enjoyed the privilege of serving. There is no way in which our party is going to win back the hearts and minds of the electorate unless we can argue more persuasively the moral

Internet and family
From the Chief Rabbi
Sir, In her good-natured dissent from remarks of mine about the Internet, Libby Purves ("Mario is innocent", November 17) was misled by an eye-catching headline ("Internet a threat to family life, says rabbi", report, November 16). I do not blame technology for eroding family life. My argument was quite different. Families need time for the way computers need connections. Too often today we do not give our children time. I am a great fan of the Internet. It is less passive than television, more instructive than computer games. It is an unparalleled educational tool, and has vast religious possibilities. Through it I and my children are able to read and hear talks given throughout the world on the week's Bible readings. We can take part in international discussion groups on problems of Jewish law and life. The Internet links families, friends

Salmon stocks
From Dr John Gayner
Sir, The proposals by the Environment Agency to require anglers to release salmon caught in England and Wales up to June 16 (report, November 18) will be welcomed by most fishermen who are anxious to reverse the trend of dwindling stocks. However, one fisher who is unconcerned about these changes is swimming happily in a large pool below a dam on the Tavy, a tributary of the Tamar. The seal, like the fox, is a voracious killer. He will treat this pool as his lair. Any restrictions to anglers will be compensated for by the activities of one or two seals at the mouths of all our salmon rivers. Netting has been restricted on the Tavy this season, and we have seen more salmon. We have also seen much more of our well-fed seal. His and his relatives' activities on our salmon rivers will have to be curbed if

Ballet partners
From Sir John Tooley
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Ruling Masons out as judges

From Mr Roger Everest
Sir, David Pannick's arguments against a register of judges who are Masons ("Does it matter if 247 judges are Masons?", Law, November 17; see also letters, November 2, 6 and 18) are, I believe, wholly misconceived. The register is justifiable on the ground that Masons — unlike members of the golf club, Garrick Club or Arsenal Football Club cited by Mr Pannick — swear an oath of allegiance to their society which the public is entitled to be aware of in those professional people who are entrusted with affairs of justice. Masons recognise the difference because they readily disclose publicly their attendance at universities and clubs, but not lodges. After 30 years at the Bar, it is my view that the influence of Freemasonry in the law is insidious and overwhelming. By contrast my own "religious beliefs, political views or sexual preferences" are manifest for everyone to see. The liberty of the ordinary individual is too important to be left to a judiciary with secrets to hide. Yours faithfully, ROGER EVEREST, Twinlirs, Talygar, Pontyclun CF72 9BY, November 18.

From Mr Frank Tuscani
Sir, The Government's request to members of the judiciary was also sent to women (letter, November 18), presumably because somebody in Government knows that there are many women Freemasons too. It's just that unlike men they keep a very low profile, but there are at least 40 women's lodges in Sussex alone. A standing joke amongst Masonic couples is who will use the regalia that evening, as it, like the ritual, is identical. Yours, FRANK TUSCANI, 13 Tudor Close, Dean Court Road, Rottingdean BN2 7DF, November 20.

Babies' passports
From Lady Engle
Sir, In September I took our five-year-old granddaughter on holiday to France. Her passport contains a photograph taken at the age of six months (letters, November 16). There were no problems leaving the UK; but at Nice airport on the way back the French passport official demanded "documentation" in addition to my passport and hers since, my surname not being the same as hers, there was no evidence that she was my grandchild. It was only after vigorous protests that I was reluctantly allowed to leave with her. On my return, phone calls to the Passport Office, the Foreign Office and the French Embassy failed to elicit any clear information, except that the French Embassy thought that what was needed was a letter from my daughter authorising me to export my granddaughter and that this would have to bear an official stamp. They were unable to tell me who should provide this stamp, or what purpose it would serve. What are grandparents to do in these circumstances? Yours faithfully, IRENE ENGLE, 32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6 5UB, November 17.

Banned music
From Mr Lionel Trippett
Sir, Your report on the Index on Censorship's concert of banned music ("Why BBC found Abba too radical, November 17) mentioned the BBC's outrageous banning of Abba, Lulu and others at the outbreak of the Gulf War. Freedom and music lovers will be happy to know that this did not go unprotested at the time. The day after the ban was announced, an impromptu group of musicians and singers gathered at lunchtime at the doors of Broadcasting House to serenade staff and passers-by. Our spirited rendering of *Boombang-A-Bang, Give Peace a Chance, Maria Muldaur's Midnight at the Oasis* and the Clash's *Rock the Casbah* attracted a lot of attention. I remember being interviewed by a very puzzled Spanish journalist and the BBC commissioner was visibly moved. Yours faithfully, LIONEL TRIPPETT, (Peace Education Officer), CND, 162 Holloway Road, N7 8DQ, November 18.

Late conversion
From Mr Harvey Proctor
Sir, According to Dr Alan Sked, leader of the UK Independence Party from 1993 to 1997, "it is vital that the Tories should win the next election" (letter, November 18). If he really wanted to defend the pound and unite the Tory party, it is a pity he and his followers didn't think and act like that at the last election. Yours sincerely, HARVEY PROCTOR, 28 Langham House Close, Ham, Richmond TW10 7JE, November 18.

istory



ASHDOWN WARNS RIVALS AGAINST CHALLENGE

OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN GEOFFREY KIRKBY

Captain Geoffrey Kirkby, CBE, DSC and two Bars, wartime destroyer captain, died on October 24 aged 80. He was born on August 26, 1918.

In a seagoing career served almost exclusively in destroyers, Geoffrey Kirkby took part in some of the hardest-fought actions of the Second World War, during which he early displayed those qualities of nerve, dash and seamanship skills for which he was to become renowned throughout the Royal Navy.

Orphaned at the age of 12, Geoffrey Kirkby joined the Navy in 1936 from Taunton School and first went to sea as a midshipman in the battleship Malaya in the Mediterranean Fleet. Self-reliant and with a quick and accurate brain, he did exceptionally well on his training courses and was by September 1939 appointed to the destroyer Kingston.

Kingston's unusually active war began with a fierce gun battle in the Red Sea off Perim between three British destroyers and the Italian submarine Torricelli. Having sunk the destroyer Kharoum, the Torricelli surrendered and, while she was in a sinking condition, Kirkby boarded her in search of signal code books. An eyewitness records seeing Kirkby's head and shoulders appear out of the submarine's conning tower just as she sank. His brave action earned him his first DSC.

Axis military power forced the Allies to evacuate Greece at the end of April 1941, and Kingston assisted in the re-embarkation of more than 50,000 troops, saved to fight another day. Worse was to follow for the Allied cause; and after fighting through a convoy of supplies for the besieged Malta garrison in early May, the Kingston found herself taking part first in the reinforcement and subsequently the evacuation of Crete.

This campaign cost the



Kirkby, centre, with two Italian naval officers aboard an American cruiser during a Nato exercise in the 1950s

Navy dear, with many ships sunk or damaged by continuous air attacks from an expert Luftwaffe Fliegerkorps. Kingston herself was damaged but, with the destroyer Kandahar, earned exceptionally warm official praise from the C-in-C, Admiral Andrew Cunningham. This reflected the destroyers' conduct during the whole period of the operation and particularly for the rescue, in broad daylight and under heavy enemy attack, of the crews of the destroyer Greyhound and the cruiser Fiji, both of which were overwhelmed by bombs in the waters to the north of Crete.

A blockade and bombardment of Vichy French Forces in the Lebanon was followed by a series of convoys to Malta, culminating in March 1942 in what became known as the Second Battle of Sirte. Admiral Sir Philip Vian's brilliant tactics against a very much superior Italian force

saved a convoy from destruction, notwithstanding the subsequent loss of some of the ships to air attack.

Kingston took part in daring torpedo attacks for which she had to close to within three miles of Italian heavy units. In the process she was badly damaged by a near-miss from a 15-inch shell fired by the battleship Littorio, but was able to limp to Malta. There, having survived so much action in the open sea, she was destroyed in dock by air attack and her distinguished captain, Commander Philip Somerville, was killed. For his part in these battles with the Italian Navy Kirkby was awarded a second DSC.

He next found himself involved in land operations in the Middle East, where he volunteered to assist with the navigation, by bubble sextant and sun-compass, of sorties behind Rommel's front line

with Colonel Bagnold's celebrated Long Range Desert Group.

In the summer of 1943, he was appointed to the destroyer Melbreak which had just returned badly damaged to Devonport, with her captain dead and first lieutenant wounded. An old friend, Lieutenant Johnson, arrived in the destroyer on the same day, and Kirkby said to him: "I believe I'm a year senior to you, why don't I be captain and you the first lieutenant?"

Thus, although only 24 years old at the time, Kirkby set about making Melbreak "the best destroyer around" by his energy and example, mixed with understanding and encouragement of his men. A contemporary recalls "a stocky young man in a battered naval cap; sheepskin jacket and seaboots, popping out from a sort of dog kennel built under the chart table on the bridge so that he could be

instantly ready, brave but not foolhardy, exuding an infectious confidence".

Back at sea by September, Melbreak took part in frequent actions in the Channel and Western Approaches, firing more than 4,000 rounds of four-inch ammunition at the enemy and being credited with the sinking of five E-boats, six merchant ships and many other vessels damaged. During the Normandy invasion, Melbreak acted as a marker for American Forces landing at Omaha Beach, covered the Royal Marines commando on Gold Beach and hammered several German gun emplacements. Kirkby received a mention in dispatches.

Later, his third DSC was awarded for his role in frustrating German attempts to evacuate Le Havre at the end of August 1944. Over four successive nights with other destroyers, Melbreak fought

protracted and violent actions against a strong naval force all the way along the coast to Dieppe, as the Germans tried to slip through the British blockade.

Having left Melbreak and still only an acting lieutenant-commander, Kirkby went to the Far East, where he took part in the liberation of Singapore and was appointed operations staff officer to the Flag Officer, Malaya. In April 1946 he married Daphne Spiller, a Wren officer who had recently arrived there from Mountbatten's headquarters staff in Ceylon.

His subsequent postwar appointments included command of the destroyers Crossbow, Charily and Diana. Kirkby had a reputation as a leader and as a ship-handler of great precision — the high-speed dash backwards up Siema Creek in Malta to a berth between head-and-stern buoys held no fears for him.

Promoted to captain in December 1957, he enjoyed two years based in Karachi as naval adviser to the Pakistani Navy. After a tour in the Admiralty at Bath as Director of Naval Equipment, his final posting was to command the cruiser Tiger.

At the end of 1966, swiftly brought up from flag-showing at Casablanca to Gibraltar, this cruiser became the private forum for negotiations — known subsequently as the "Tiger Talks" — between the Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Ian Smith, head of the illegal Rhodesian regime.

Kirkby's final naval duty was to arrange the funeral of Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, his erstwhile C-in-C. He was appointed CBE, but to the surprise of many who expected him to make flag rank, he was retired in early 1967.

He subsequently took up an administrative post at Bath University.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

JOHN CHARLTON

John Charlton, publisher, died of cancer on October 23 aged 58. He was born on April 23, 1940.

DURING his long career as an editor at Chatto & Windus, John Charlton was a loyal friend to many authors including Iris Murdoch, V. S. Pritchett and Isaiah Berlin, and became especially close to Laurens van der Post. He began working as an editor under Ian Parsons in 1965, and became a director of Chatto and of the Hogarth Press two years later. He was then closely involved in successive structural changes and amalgamations with Jonathan Cape in 1969, with Bodley Head in 1973, with Random House in 1987 and finally coming under the umbrella of Century Hutchinson in 1989.

John Fraser Charlton was the only grandson of Horatio Nelson Smith, the founder of the healthcare company Smith and Nephew. He and his two elder sisters were brought up by their mother after her marriage to their father had ended in divorce. As a baby he had a narrow escape as the Battle of Britain raged over his cot in a garden beneath the South Downs. A Luftwaffe bomber, fleeing its RAF pursuers, shed its munitions overhead. One bomb landed close but failed to detonate.

He went to school at Winchester, where he played cricket for the first XI, and was noted for his cunning, mannerist, slow leg break bowling. He then won an exhibition to Magdalene College, Cambridge.

His arrival in publishing was perhaps typical of its time. After coming down from Cambridge he had a daunting but unsuccessful interview with T. S. Eliot at Faber, before being seen, briefly, by Ian Parsons, who announced that he had been told to take on Charlton — a cricketer and a half blue at five — and that he could start on Monday if that was convenient.

He was soon known among authors for his professionalism. One author whom he brought to the firm was Dirk Bogarde, who was to play a large part in helping to restore its fortunes. Bogarde was deeply grateful for Charlton's editorial corrections to the first part of his autobiography, A Postillion Struck by Lightning, which were, he says, "copious enough to have been publishable as a small paperback". His self-esteem was partially restored by his correction of one of Charlton's notes, however when he triumphantly pointed out that shrimps were actually not the same as prawns.

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MOLLY BISHOP

Molly Bishop (Lady George Scott), portrait artist, died on November 1 aged 86. She was born in British India on December 12, 1911.

MOLLY BISHOP was not only a successful artist but a woman of great beauty, intelligence and charm. She had the rare gift of embellishing her sitters, something she achieved in part by putting them at their ease and transferring to them something of her own serenity. Many of them became friends and returned to 60 Glebe Place, Chelsea, which served both as her studio and her London home.

Although she did paint in oils, including some larger-than-life portraits and a number of posters for films, she was best known for her pastel head-and-shoulder portraits: among her subjects were Sir James Bowker, the distinguished diplomat, immaculate in white tie, tails and decorations; she also painted his wife Ailsa. Other sitters included Evangeline Bruce, wife of the American Ambassador to London and many other capital cities, and Theresia Millstein, who was married to Nathan, the virtuoso violinist. She also drew Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Laurence Olivier, Rudolf Nureyev, and her own sister-in-law Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

Mary Wina Mannin (Molly) Bishop was born in Multan, southwest of Lahore, and now in Pakistan, the daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Bishop. Extraordinarily, she had her first drawing exhibited at the age of 18 months and from



Molly Bishop with self portrait, photographed by Baron

the age of seven won many awards from the Royal Drawing Society's children's academy. When she won a scholarship to the Royal Academy Schools in London she was the youngest girl student. After studying there under the legendary Professor Tonks, she went, on leaving, to work for The Eystonier (long since merged with The Tatler) for which she sketched celebrities of the prewar world.

She married in 1938 Lord George Montagu Douglas Scott, the third son of the 7th Duke of Buccleuch. He retired from the Northamptonshire Yeomanry after the Second World War and, through their long and happy marriage, he gave his full support to her artistic career. Shortly before her death she accepted a commission from the Sitwells. Her husband, son and two daughters survive her.

PROFESSOR V. S. GRIFFITHS

Professor V. S. Griffiths, electrochemist and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, died on October 27 aged 79. He was born on August 17, 1919.



PROFESSOR V. S. Griffiths, or "Griff" as he was known, was a leading figure in the expansion of the universities in the 1960s. A talented teacher and researcher, he was also a natural leader, to whom the University of Surrey in particular owes much.

Victor Sidney Griffiths came from a humble background. His parents ran a wharfage contractor's business on the Grand Union Canal, and he was the last of their six children. He won a scholarship that enabled him to attend the Isleworth County School, and he first found work with a tiny local firm in the cosmetics business. Later he worked at Crookes Laboratories, where he started studying chemistry in the evenings.

As a Territorial Army Reservist, he was at called up at once in 1939 and sent to France — in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Despite the pressures of the time, he managed to represent the Army in Anglo-French rugby matches. He was in the thick of the fighting round Dunkirk, and was captured by the Germans. He spent the next five years as a prisoner of war, but decided to give the Germans as much trouble as he could; he escaped and managed to travel to within a few miles of the Swiss frontier before he was recaptured.

On his release from the

Army in 1946 he continued his chemistry studies at Battersea Polytechnic, where his abilities soon attracted the attention of his tutors. He took a first in 1948 and was persuaded to join the Battersea teaching staff.

At that time colleges such as Battersea attracted little funding for research, so Griffiths begged, borrowed and built apparatus for his own work. A staunch believer that study should be directly linked with industry, he saw to it that his many findings were not only published as research papers but put into practice on the factory floor. In particular, he made many contributions to the electroplating industry.

Battersea Polytechnic became one of the Colleges of Advanced Technology in 1956, and Griffiths was appointed to its governing body. He also became its reader in spectroscopy, which soon led to the establishment of the department of spectroscopy and chemical physics under his direction. When it was decided

that the technology colleges should appoint professors, it was natural that he was among the first of them. He soon also became president of the Association of University Teachers.

But he shone as never before when the decision was made that Battersea Polytechnic should become a university in its own right. Finding himself effectively in charge of the building operations, he proved an able organiser and a shrewd negotiator. A home was found for the new university at Guildford, and Griffiths was energetic in securing adequate funds from the local authorities to allow construction to proceed.

The problems of new universities do not end with the buildings, however. Questions of academic governance, of staff guarantees, unions and security all arise. Griffiths, appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1968, dealt so well with such matters that the university was almost spared the wave of student unrest of that year. He was reappointed in 1971 and appointed to a permanent post in 1975.

His influence went beyond his own university. He served on the governing bodies of many institutions, including Kingston Polytechnic, the (then) Guildford School of Art, and the Guildford School of Acting. In retirement he was active in a quite different field: housing schemes for the mentally handicapped and young people's probation.

He is survived by his wife Olga, and by their son and daughter.



Charlton: meticulous publisher's editor who had the ability to turn his hand to any kind of job

University news

Oxford

Somerville College The following elections have been agreed: To a Bellily Scholarship in Physics: Graham Andrew Mackenzie Walker (formerly of Reigate Grammar School, Surrey); Hazel Broadbent (Bingley Grammar School, W. Yorks); James Magness (Malden Grammar School, Surrey); Alan Owen Saunders (Lawnwood School, Leeds); David Zekria (Watford Grammar School for Boys, Watford).

To a Coombs Scholarship in Physiology: Thomas Mulrean (Cranbrook School, Kent). To a Murray Scholarship in Mathematics: David Temple (St Aidans & St John Fisher VI Form, Harrogate); Daniel Stephen Lester (Trent College, Nottingham). To a Nuffield Scholarship in Biochemistry: Iwan Robert Evans (St Olaves Grammar School, Kent); Gayle Ellen Ritchie (Simon Langton Girls School, Kent). To a Seymour Exhibition in Chemistry: Marguerite Sarah Kaie Rennoldson (Haberdashers' Aske's Girls School, Herts). To a Coombs Exhibition in Law: Eleanor Maria Reid (The Belvedere School, GPDST, Liverpool); Joanne Marie Clement (Ferdale Comprehensive School, Rhonda). To a Coombs Exhibition in Modern History: Andrew James Clark (Leek High School, Staffordshire). To a Coombs Exhibition in Ancient and Modern History:

Marc Sebastian Wilkinson (Sir James Henderson British School, Italy). To a Haynes Exhibition in Biology: Sophia Catherine Brecknell (Simon Balle School, Herts); Emma Lucie Perfect (Craigmoint High School, Edinburgh). To a Hughes Exhibition in Medicine: Natasha Susannah Shekhar (Perse School for Girls, Cambridge). To a Seymour Exhibition in Human Sciences: Jennifer Lucy Parry James (Reigate Grammar School, Surrey). To a College Prize in Human Sciences: Jennifer Lucy Parry James (Reigate Grammar School, Surrey). To a College Prize in Classics: Charlotte Elizabeth Regan (Old Richard School, Croydon); John Richard Stores (Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne). To a Coombs Prize in Modern History: Andrew James Clark (Leek High School, Staffordshire).

To a Coombs Prize in Ancient and Modern History: Marc Sebastian Wilkinson (Sir James Henderson British School, Italy). To a Coombs Prize in English: Benal Eluned Salih (Queen's School, Flintshire). To a Kirkaldy Prize in Biochemistry: Mr Iwan Robert Evans (St Olaves Grammar School, Kent); Gayle Ellen Ritchie (Simon Langton Girls School, Kent). To a Kirkaldy Prize in Physiology: Thomas Mulrean (Cranbrook School, Kent). To a Kirkaldy Prize in Physics: Graham Andrew Mackenzie Walker (Reigate Grammar School, Surrey); Oliver Jacob Rosten (Sunton Grammar School, Surrey). To a Kirkaldy Prize in Chemistry: Marguerite Sarah Kaie Rennoldson (Haberdashers' Aske's Girls School, Herts). To a Nicholson Prize in Mathematics: David Temple (St Aidans & St John Fisher VI Form, Harrogate); Daniel Stephen Lester (Trent College, Nottingham).

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

The papers brought by the General Steam Navigation Company's mail-boat, the Sir Edward Banks, from Rotterdam yesterday, contain the important information of the Order of the Day of General Chasse to the garrison of Antwerp, of Saturday the 17th, and the Order of the Day of the Director-General of the War Department to the garrison of Breda, on the 18th.

ON THIS DAY

November 23, 1832

In 1814 Belgium and Holland were united to form The Netherlands under William I. Discord between the two countries led to Belgium proclaiming independence in 1831. The subsequent war was ended by the Treaty of London in 1839.

that the confidence which our beloved King has reposed in us has not been bestowed on the unworthy; and let us take the unalterable resolution to defend ourselves with manly courage to the last extremity. "Live the King!" "The General Commander-in-Chief of the Citadel of Antwerp, of its dependent forts, and of His Majesty's navy on the Scheldt: "Brethren in arms! — All Netherlands, and even Europe, have their eyes fixed upon you: let you, collectively and individually, prove

Breda breathes a like spirit of indomitable resolution.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

"Brave Soldiers — On the festival day consecrated to the anniversary of the birth of the beloved Queen of the Netherlands, you receive the honourable medal in testimony of your loyalty to your King and your country. "In 1830 and 1831 you guarded with valour and perseverance the ramparts of the state confided to you. You seconded the movements of the army, and thus contributed to the maintenance and preservation of our dearest rights. Again, in the territory of the Netherlands, these rights are menaced. It may happen that you will be called upon more seriously than ever to devote your energies to your King and your country. "Never was such a call more grand, more sacred. You will respond to it in a manner worthy of yourselves, under your worthy commanders. The metal won in battle will not shine in vain upon your breasts. "Confiding, together with your King, on the protection of the Almighty, you will again, by your valour, deserve the thanks of your King and of your country. "Live the King. "The Lieutenant-General, Director-General of the War Department De Egrene"

ice

to the street

prices.

DELL

NEWS

New European Way launched

A manifesto for a socialist Europe with more harmonised taxes and more closely shared economic policies, including higher public spending, was launched last night by Britain and the ten other Leftwing governments that now dominate the European Union.

The programme for "The New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of Monetary Union" calls itself a "set of common rules for the economic and social wellbeing of European citizens" Page 1

Drug testing at Ministry of Defence

Civil servants at the Ministry of Defence are set to become the first Whitehall officials to face compulsory drugs tests. The controversial move would affect all MoD civil servants who are involved in "safety-critical areas" Page 1

Kidnap ordeal over

A businessman who was cleared of murder last month was freed yesterday after a 30-hour kidnap ordeal during which he was tortured by an armed gang demanding £100,000 ransom Page 1

Arctic thaw fears

Global warming may have triggered the unprecedented melting of sea ice in the Arctic, which has left the remaining ice up to a third thinner than it was 20 years ago Page 9

A Winslet wedding

Kate Winslet and Jim Threapleton were married yesterday at a parish church in front of coachloads of guests. They had tried to keep the ceremony secret, but a team of security guards had to be called in Page 1

Murder memorial

A roadside memorial was erected to mark the last sighting of a young woman suspected of falling prey to a serial killer roaming Ireland's east coast. Jolo Dullard is one of six women to have vanished since 1993 Page 10

Barney bashing

Barney the dinosaur, whose first British stage tour is attracting huge audiences, is the target of an Internet grudge campaign from parents infuriated by his saccharine antics Page 3

Stasi files appeal

The new German Government has asked the United States to return a trove of espionage files, including the identity of thousands of Western agents, obtained by the CIA from East Germany after the collapse of the Berlin Wall Page 12

Fertility fight

A form of egg donation that has led to the birth of 150 babies in Britain may be outlawed this week by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. At its meeting on Thursday, the HFEA could agree to ban "egg-sharing" Page 4

Indonesia rampage

Indonesian troops last night struggled to maintain order in Jakarta after a Muslim mob went on the rampage, setting fire to churches and beating Christians to death Page 14

Chinese top earnings

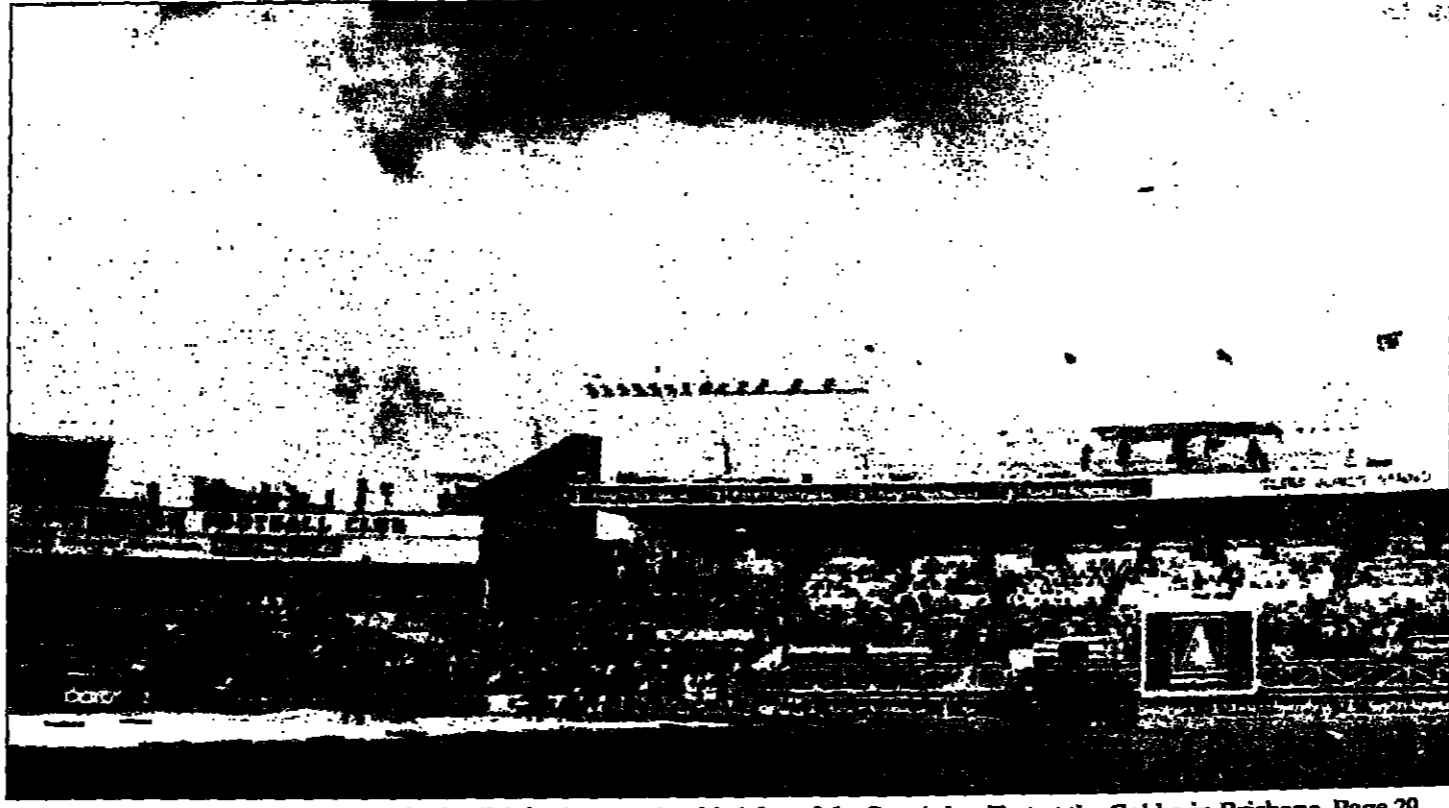
The Chinese in Britain have overtaken whites and African Asians in the earnings and employment league. Research shows that Chinese men have the highest average earnings and the lowest unemployment rate of any ethnic group Page 6

Russians grieve

The funeral of Galina Starovoitova, the murdered reformist politician, which is to be held tomorrow near St Petersburg, will symbolise for many the desperate state of affairs in which their country approaches the millennium Page 16

Fresh French Casanova loves a row

Sex has replaced socialism and existentialism as the main talking point on Paris's Left Bank, with intellectuals locked in a row over Casanova's prowess and morals. The debate has been sparked by the publication of a book by one of France's trendiest philosophers, Philippe Sollers, who claims to be the true successor of the famous 18th-century lover Page 15



An electrical storm curtailed a solid English innings on the third day of the first Ashes Test at the Gabba in Brisbane. Page 29

BUSINESS

Hotel buyer to sell: Patriot American Hospitality, the aggressive US hotel investor, is considering a sale of its UK assets, signalling the end of a frenzied drive by US real estate companies to pick up British properties Page 52

FEATURES

Party girls: Grace Bradberry looks at the Tories' inability to engage women in top ranks Page 17

ARTS

Child's play: For the first time in 30 years, the Royal Shakespeare Company is presenting a children's show in Stratford with a new adaptation of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Page 20

SPORT

Football: Roy Hodgson, who was dismissed from Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, looks like the victim of a foolish, ill-considered, precipitate move Page 29

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 9, 17, 22, 38, 49. Bonus: 47. Eight people shared Saturday's £25 million superdraw jackpot; 22 matched five and the bonus ball to net £120,267; 1,433 matched five balls to win £1,153; 80,371 won £45 for four.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
ARTS: How museums and galleries are spearheading Liverpool's cultural renaissance
LAW: A legal aid ruling will make mediation more popular

THE PAPERS

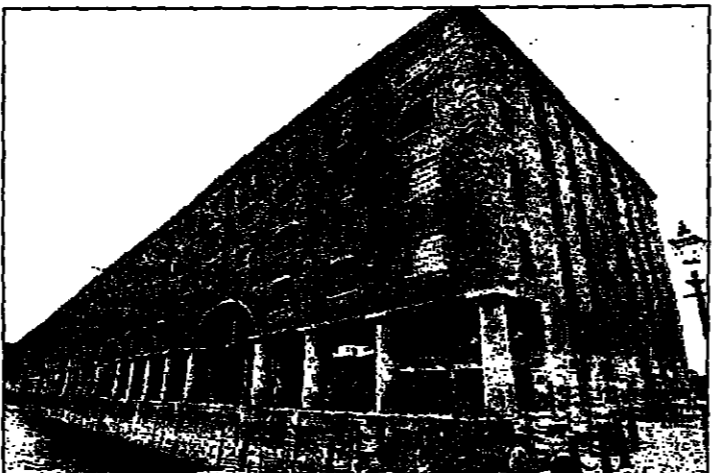
There is a great deal of talk about solidarity between the social democratic leaders of Europe - Gerhard Schroeder in Germany, Massimo D'Alema in Italy, Lionel Jospin in France and Tony Blair in Britain. The European Left has much in common on economic and monetary policy. But the row over the fate of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader arrested in Rome, shows there is no common ground whatever when it comes to diplomacy. No-one wants to extradite Ocalan, let alone try him. La Stampa, Turin

OBITUARIES

Captain Geoffrey Kirby, CBE, DSC and two Bars, wartime destroyer captain; John Charlton, publisher; Molly Bishop, portrait artist. Page 25

LETTERS

Tackling drugs in schools: moral basis for Conservatism; Freemasonry and judiciary; Internet and the family; preserving salmon stocks; passports for babies; banned music; recruitment advertising; working hours limit; wreaking havoc. Page 23



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,956

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues. The grid is a standard crossword format with black squares indicating non-letter positions.

- ACROSS
1 She got the porridge others should have - what a bloomer! (10)
7 Check a line of ancestry (4)
10 Part of one's goal, to emulate Terenstyon's final journey? (8)
11 Destination of writer unknown to older old city (6)
12 Weakens impression given by single politician (9)
13 Like the fare when it's too high? (8)
15 Ruin sound organisation, retaining only a small core (4)
16 Draw alongside river bank (4)
21 European resort by Channel suffering a setback (8)
24 Fairly photogenic (8)
25 A peevish description of this clue (6)
26 Butchers initially involved in terrible riot at a slaughterhouse (8)
27 In which underfed cattle are bound to keep out of sight (4)
28 Very bad literary king wanting a keeper of records (10)
DOWN
1 A terrible row if we lack this skill! (11)
3 Dislike religious work? Daughter is in fifth year without it (9)
4 Old politician upriver in African state (7)
5 Bearing with mate's old-fashioned means of transport (8,3,4)
6 Top man wrestling to contain 24? Not half! (7)
8 Little Tom, whose rule is practical (5)
9 Sounds like an insect around for 31 days, perhaps (5)
14 Plant abandoned before hostilities (11)
17 Teach unit in way that's unorthodox but reliable (9)
19 Glide over thus, giving description of rocks (7)
20 Attempt to justify kiss quietly accepted by girl? Not quite! (7)
22 Hit produced by musical leader in military band (5)
23 About to go up and deliver bitter (5)

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,955 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

LEARN ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Table with columns for UK Weather - All regions, UK Roads - All regions, and various weather codes and symbols.

World City Weather

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities including London, New York, Tokyo, etc.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 46.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

FORECAST

General: SE England cold and dry with sunny spells. Northern and SW England, and Wales, mainly dry with sunny breaks. Central England cloudy with a spot of rain in Scotland and N Ireland, sunny spells and only the odd shower at first, but increasingly windy with steady and heavy rain moving into west during the afternoon. Tonight, rain sweeping east to clear Scotland and N Ireland, then a few showers in the west; cold in the east. The rain will move into England and Wales but southern and SE England will remain dry. London, SE England, E Anglia: a few spots of early rain but mainly dry with bright skies. Light southerly wind. Max 7C (45F). Cent S, Cent N, E England, Midlands: cloudy, a few spots of rain, brighter in afternoon. Light S wind. Max 7C (45F). Ch'nl: mostly cloudy, a little light rain in morning. Light SE wind. Max 8C (46F).

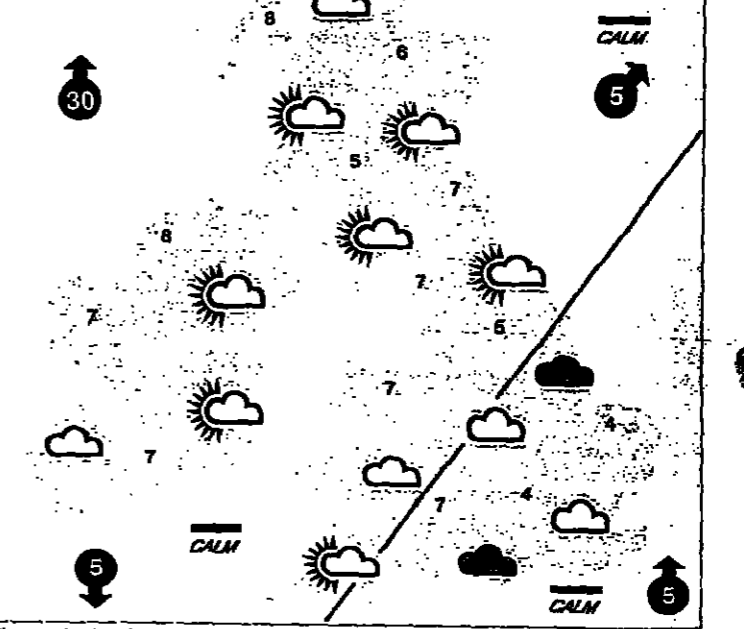
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind speed, and cloud cover for various locations like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

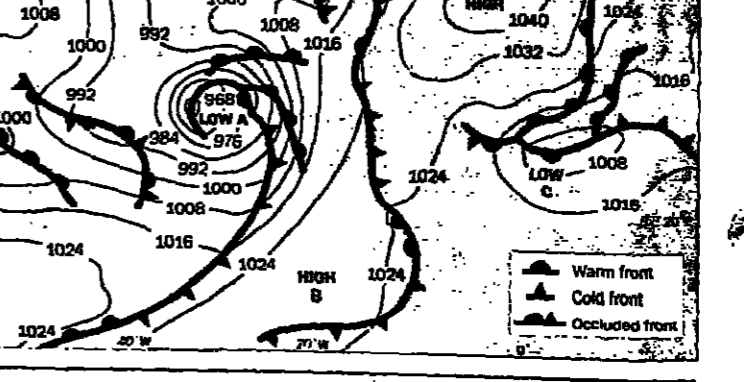
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions in various foreign cities like Tokyo, Sydney, London, etc.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart from noon. Low A drifts NE, deepening usually before starting to fill. High B extends north and east with little change in central pressure. Low C fills as it drifts east.



HIGHEST & LOWEST

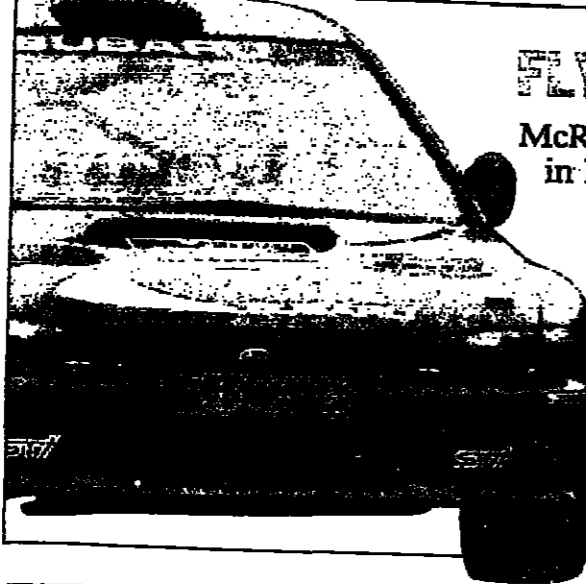
Table showing the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in various locations over the last 24 hours.

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Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, featuring the text 'Rover true planic' and 'no. @demon' along with various phone numbers and promotional offers.



FLYING START
McRae takes early lead in Network Q Rally
PAGE 29

PLUS
Rose facing uphill climb in Spain
PAGE 28



MASTER BUTCHER
Opening batsman cuts loose for England
PAGE 29



SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED
England given the runaround in World Cup qualifier
PAGE 37

TIMES SPORT

16 PAGES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

HODGSON FALLS FROM GRACE AT EWOOD PARK

Rovers could rue pressing panic button

ROY of the Rovers was never meant to finish like this, but then Blackburn has got a harder ring to it than Melchester and Roy Race never had Jack Walker to contend with. The original Roy of the Rovers had loyal men with long sideburns such as Blackie Gray by his side, too. Roy Hodgson, increasingly, seemed to be undermined by players who belonged to a harsher, more financially driven world than was ever glimpsed in the cartoon strips.

The end came early on Saturday evening, when Walker appears to have told Hodgson that his services were no longer required in the corner of Lancashire for which he had swapped Milan. Several of the Blackburn players had speculated that there would be dire consequences if they lost at home to Southampton, but they still seemed shocked when they were confronted with the reality.

It was only a few months ago that Hodgson seemed a good bet to be the next England manager, but his fortunes have declined faster than those of Glenn Hoddle. A good communicator, a clever tactician and a skilful manager, the speed of his de-

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, says the departure of Roy Hodgson indicates that the map of English football excellence is being redrawn

Perhaps we should not be surprised. It is that time of year, after all, when winter takes hold and the four divisions of English football turn into killing fields littered with managerial casualties. Roy Evans, one of those who has already been mentioned as a candidate for the vacancy at Blackburn, went 11 days ago. On Saturday, it was Hodgson's turn.

Even in these days of the sweating, trembling fear of relegation and the drastic financial losses that it brings, Blackburn's parting with Hodgson reeks of panic. It is ill-considered, foolishly precipitous. The 2-0 defeat to Southampton may have left them rooted to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, but they will



Blackburn Rovers may be bottom of the Premiership, but they will struggle to find another coach as able as Hodgson, the latest high-profile casualty

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- BARCELONA** £169 (Cataluna, Sovereign, Additional nights £21)
- MADRID** £157 (Ciper, Additional nights £22)
- PARIS** £99 (Jardin, Sovereign, Additional nights £16, £108 by air from London, Birmingham & Manchester)
- AMSTERDAM** £119 (Acro, Additional nights £26)

Also: Bruges from £130, Brussels from £116, Budapest from £246, Dublin from £106, Florence from £223, Istanbul from £278, Lille from £105, Nice from £193, Rome from £206, Seville from £228, and Vienna from £214.

Prices are lowest available and based upon 2 sharing and subject to availability. Flights usually based upon British Airways from London, Manchester and other airports are available and may include a supplement.

Reservations phone Monday to Friday 09.00 to 18.00 hrs

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London holds the whip hand in that respect, of course. Some English players, perhaps, can appreciate the beauty of Clitheroe and the Pendle Hills — Chris Sutton walks his dogs on the moors there — but it is hard to see Marcel Desailly pulling on his Wellington boots and going for a stroll up hill and down dale.

Blackburn were already having to make do with the best of the rest, players such as Martin Dahlin, Stephane Henchoz and Sebastian Perez, and team spirit was beginning to suffer. Tim Sherwood, the club captain, is openly agitating for a transfer and Sutton himself has grown concerned about the club's failure to stop the haemorrhage of top-class talent to greener pastures.

Hodgson's departure has merely highlighted the fact that we are beginning to see a radical redrawing of the map of English football excellence. There may be one or two outposts of glamour away from the capital, notably in Manchester and Liverpool, but the rest will struggle to keep up unless they intensify their efforts to cultivate home-grown talent.

Blackburn are halfway there. They have outstanding youngsters in Damien Duff and Damien Johnson established in the first team, with others coming through, but there were not enough of them to allow Hodgson to recoil from paying exorbitant prices for players such as Kevin Davies, Nathan Blake and Christian Dailly, who have yet to make a significant impact.

Those who once condoned Walker for buying success, for taking transfer fees to a new level in England, are laughing loudest now. Silly money took Blackburn to the top. Silly money is dragging the club back down.

'As he was driven through the gates, the table told Hodgson he was leaving behind the worst team in the league'

Match report, page 30

BLACKBURN ROVERS UNDER HODGSON

Premiership	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1997-98	38	16	10	12	57	52	58
1998-99	14	2	3	9	14	22	9
TOTAL	52	18	13	21	71	74	67

TRANSFERS OUT		TRANSFERS IN	
H Berg (Man Utd)	£25m	K Davies (Southampton)	£7.5m
G Le Saux (Chelsea)	£5m	C Doherty (Derby Co)	£5.25m
C Hendry (Rangers)	£4m	N Blake (Bolton Wtdrs)	£4.25m
I Pearson (West Ham Utd)	£2.2m	S Perez (Bastia)	£3m
C Coleman (Fulham)	£2.2m	S Henchoz (Hamburg)	£3m
S Gheen (Newcastle Utd)	£1.5m	M Dahlin (AS Roma)	£2.5m
S Ripley (Southampton)	£1.5m	C Davidson (St Johnstone)	£1.75m
L Bohinen (Derby Co)	£1.45m	J Filan (Coventry)	£700,000
P Warhurst (Crystal Palace)	£1.25m	J Corbett (Gillingham)	£500,000
G Fenlon (Leicester City)	£1.1m	S Bywater (Rochdale)	£500,000
J Beattie (Southampton)	£1m	T Pedersen (St Pauli)	£500,000
P Pedersen (Strasbourg)	£900,000	A Fattis (Nottingham For)	£300,000
M Holmes (Charlton Ath)	£250,000	D Peacock (Newcastle Utd)	Free
P Valery (Bastia)	£200,000	A Anderson (Malmoe)	Free
T Pedersen (E Frankfurt)	Undisclosed	P Valery (Bastia)	Free
N Marner (Sheffield Utd)	Free		
TOTAL	£27,430,000	TOTAL	£29,700,000

SENDINGS OFF (all competitions)			
1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99
P Valery (2nd booking)	A v Tottenham Sep 20	S Perez (2nd booking)	H v Chelsea Sep 21
J Wilcox (violent conduct)	H v Coventry Sep 28	M Dahlin (violent conduct)	A v Everton Sep 26
C Sutton (2nd booking)	A v Man Utd Nov 30	J Wilcox (2nd booking)	A v Lyons Sep 29
K Galloway (violent conduct)	A v West Ham Feb 14	C Sutton (serious foul play)	H v Arsenal Oct 25
J Wilcox (2nd booking)	A v Bolton Apr 11	T Sherwood (violent conduct)	A v Man Utd Nov 14
T Flowers (foul or abusive language)	A v Coventry May 2		

PREMIERSHIP RECORD				
K Dalglish	K Dalglish	K Dalglish	R Hardford/T Parries	R Hodgson
1993-4 2nd	1994-5 1st	1995-6 7th	1996-7 23th	1997-8 8th



GOLF: TEENAGER HAS GROUND TO MAKE UP GOING INTO THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Unpredictable Rose left with uphill task

PAUL SEVERN / ALLSPORT

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN SAN ROQUE

IT IS clear, now that he has been a professional for four months, that when Justin Rose is put fully under pressure and the nerves of many of his followers are stretched almost to their limits, he has exceptional competitive instincts that enable him to produce a round of golf that really matters. As he has demonstrated this characteristic three times since he turned professional last July, Rose appears to be able to do this more often than most of his peers.

It is also noticeable that before, or after, one such exceptional round, Rose is prone to lose concentration and make

fit on the 18th at Sotogrande had rounded off his fourth round. Yesterday, Rose was level to the turn before notching up four bogeys and two birdies on the back nine. He shook his head after his round, puzzled as to what had gone wrong. "I hit good putts which didn't go in, but to be honest I didn't give myself a lot of chances," he said. "I need a 69 or better tomorrow."

In contrast, Henrik Nyström can do little wrong. Nyström, a 29-year-old from Sweden, is 11 under par and leads the field by four strokes. It would take an astonishing collapse for him not to be one of the leading 35 players tonight.

Nick Faldo was as good as his word on Sunday when he led England to its first World Cup of Golf team title at the 44th attempt. Faldo had promised to make amends for England never having won the title since the competition started in 1954. His experience took him and David Carter, his young compatriot, to a two-stroke win at Gulf Harbour.

mistakes. Perhaps this trait will fade away as he leaves adolescence and acquires more competitive experience. He is only 18, after all.

Rose demonstrated this fickleness in the fifth round of the European Tour qualifying school yesterday after he had produced some fireworks to beat the 72-hole cut the previous afternoon. Where Rose had been so focused and determined in his fourth round, he was prone to unforced errors in his fifth, his 74 being studded with poor iron strokes and the odd poor putt. Despite this, he has moved up from 58th to 51st in his attempt to finish among the top 35 players and win the card that will give him entry to the European Tour next year.

An heroic 50-yard pitch and

His nearest chasers include Ross Drummond, who will be 42 on Sunday and seems certain to celebrate his birthday having regained his playing rights on the European Tour, and Marcello Santi, of Italy.

Among scores such as these, someone who is ten over par would seem to be nothing to write home about, but for Simon Hurley that score represented a triumph. The injuries to his right arm that prevented him from playing more than a few rounds of golf in the past 24 months reached to the intensive amount of golf Hurley has subjected them to recently and caused him so much pain that he withdrew last night.

Hurley felt that his fourth round had been heroic because, over the last nine holes, he took his right hand off the club after impact on almost every shot. He stood on the 12th tee knowing that he had to play the remaining seven holes in no worse than one over par and he did so. An 82 yesterday was another triumph because, by then, he was playing almost completely one-handed.

"You are looking at a very happy man," Hurley said before he and Martin, his brother, began their return



Rose, of England, plays out of the sand at the 17th hole during his topsy-turvy fifth round at the San Roque golf club in Spain yesterday

journey to Bristol. "What is making me feel good is the knowledge that before my arm started to hurt, I was beating nearly everyone here," Hurley, who was six under par after two rounds, said. "That means I can play this game

well and it bodes well for me next season."

Wales has provided a disproportionate number of Amateur champions since the Seventies, an indication of how successful the Welsh Golf Union has been in identifying

young talent and bringing those players on quickly. Perhaps this is why six of the eight Welshmen who arrived here last week survived to the last two rounds.

At two under par, Stephen Dodd, the 1999 Amateur champion,

is the best of their bunch. He is thirteenth overall and followed by Neil Roderick, Mark Pilkington, who is only 20, and Bradley Dredge, the runner-up in the 1992 Amateur championship. These three are all one over par and tied for 27th.

Keith Jones and Andrew Barnett are both eight over par. Only David Park, a Walker Cup player in 1997, and Simon Wilkinson failed to reach the last two rounds.

Scores, page 40

ATHLETICS

Hemery waits on Wembley decision

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH athletics is seeking to host a wide-ranging programme of international championships as a build-up to bringing the world track and field championships to Wembley in 2003. Plans were released at the weekend that could see as many as five big events in Great Britain in the run-up to Wembley.

While Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president, warned Britain not to expect to be awarded the 2003 championships — he told David Hemery, the British governing body's new president, that Wembley may have to wait until 2005 — the campaign to bring international events here remains firmly on the front foot.

Already guaranteed to Britain are the 1999 world cross country championships, in Belfast, and the 2000 European Cup, at Gateshead. Now bids are being made to bring the world half-marathon championships to Bristol in 2000 and the European indoor championships to Birmingham in 2002, shortly before the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

As Hemery said yesterday, if Britain is to bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games, it is "rather essential" that Wembley stages the world championships in 2003, rather than 2005, to provide a timely tool for showcasing the bid.

Britain launched its Wembley bid at the IAAF gala in Monte Carlo with a message of support from the Prime Minister. "The Government supports wholeheartedly the British bid to host the ninth IAAF world championships," Tony Blair said.

Hemery left Monte Carlo with the impression that Paris would provide the sternest opposition. "That is really the only other candidate they were talking about," Hemery said. "Primo Nebiolo has an iron fist on the voting system."

At the gala, Haile Gebrselassie, from Ethiopia, and Marion Jones, from the United States, were named athletes of the year. Gebrselassie set 5,000 and 10,000 metres world records and Jones was undefeated at 100 and 200 metres.

Paula Radcliffe, reduced to tears at the European championships in Budapest after finishing fifth in the 10,000 metres, began rebuilding her confidence yesterday when she won the Reebok Margate cross country race. A virus afflicted Radcliffe in Budapest and forced her out of the Commonwealth Games. Her victory will lean her towards an attempt on the European cross country title next month.

Australia
toil as
England
stand firm

Westwood proves to be big in Japan

LEE WESTWOOD was fighting his game all week, but the young Englishman's greatest asset is that he never fights himself and he won the Dunlop Phoenix tournament, Japan's most lucrative event, in typically serene fashion in Miyazaki yesterday.

On a sunny day beside the sea, with a swirling breeze and some tough pin positions made birdies hard to come by, a round of 70, one under par, was good enough to keep Westwood out in front. He had led from the halfway stage. He finished on 271, 13 under par, three shots ahead of Darren Clarke, whose putting let him down, and four ahead of Joe Ozald.

It was Westwood's second victory in as many weeks and his seventh of a season that is not yet finished. Next week, the 25-year-old from Workop flies to

Patricia Davies finds a Briton aiming higher than being the world No 1

South Africa for the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City.

Westwood's latest Japanese jaunt, which takes his tally of victories here to four in three years, has netted him 72 million yen. "It sounds like a lot," he smiled and it is. It converts to £360,000 and takes his on-course earnings for the season to roughly £1.5 million.

"Money is not a driving force with me," Westwood said. "It's never, ever an issue. Today on the golf course is what drives me on. Winning is what it's all about and I always try my hardest to win."

Easy-going though he is, he is bound-

lessly ambitious. Not long ago, Westwood, then ranked No 9 in the world, remarked that wanting to be world No 1 was not that much of an ambition. "What do you do when you've achieved it?" he asked. "There's no good getting there and just stopping. I'd like to win 100 tournaments and as many majors as I can." The Dunlop Phoenix was win No 13 and he has yet to win a major, so he will be busy for a few years yet.

At least Westwood seems to have mastered the knack of winning when not playing his best. "Some parts of my game were at 50 per cent this week," he

said, "although it's difficult to see how my short game could have been better and my mental attitude was as good as it's ever been. I was not hitting the ball well on the range, but on the 1st tee my mind was set on what I wanted to do, which was to shoot as low as I could."

His main challenger yesterday was Clarke, who closed to within a shot with a birdie four at the 7th, but missed a 12ft uphill birdie putt at the next to draw level. It proved to be a crucial miss because Westwood pulled away with birdie threes at the 9th and 10th. He pulled his second shot into the tree at the front left of the green and the ball ricocheted to safety on the right edge of the green. "The putt was always in," Westwood grinned as he gave a graphic description. "You've got to take advantage of your luck."



Westwood enjoys his fourth win in Japan in three years

SNOOKER

Campbell sees red at the antics of Hann

By PHIL YATES

QUINTEN HANN, talented and brash in equal measure, exhibited the acceptably petulant side of his nature during a 9-6 defeat by Marcus Campbell in the second round of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth yesterday.

Campbell, who white-washed Stephen Hendry 9-0 in the previous round, is an universally popular individual. He would never consider criticising an opponent unless it was well merited.

"Quinten's diabolical. I'm afraid," Campbell said. "His temperament and attitude are an absolute disgrace. I'm a professional sportsman who conducts himself in a proper way, but he's got bad manners at the table."

Campbell's forthright remarks were inspired by behaviour that qualified as ungentlemanly in anyone's language. "I think he was trying to play mind games, but I am too long in the tooth to let anything like that affect me," he said.

Hann, a peroxide blond who had several brushes with the amateur authorities in his native Australia before turning professional three years ago, conceded the fifth frame with five reds remaining, even though he only trailed 44-0.

More bizarrely — and in Campbell's opinion, rudely — Hann conceded the eighth frame when leading 54-47. With Campbell ideally positioned on the green and the remaining colours on or just off their spots, Hann surprisingly stood up and shook hands, clearly resigned to a

clearance. "I wasn't about to complain, but it was stupid," Campbell said. "We'd already had a few kicks out there and under pressure anything could have happened. He doesn't seem to be able to take his medicine when he's sitting in his chair."

Hann showed less inclination to prematurely throw in the towel on the resumption.

Results.....40

but the earlier damage proved to be irreparable. Campbell, who completed victory with an unfinished run of 69 when Hann once again conceded at an inappropriate juncture, now meets Steve Davis in the last 16. "At least I'm playing a gentleman now," he said.

Hann was unrepentant. "I don't think conceding is a big deal," he said. "I definitely

didn't do it to put him off. The way my head was, I knew there was no way I could win. After two or three frames, I didn't want to be out there."

"In some ways, I feel guilty because I had a few people here who wanted to see me win," Hann's mother, Amanda, had travelled from their Melbourne home to watch the match. Should the erratic 21-year-old continue to disregard the unwritten code of etiquette at snooker's highest level, it is fair to assume that the majority of spectators will want him to lose.

It was a day of contrasting fortunes for Jimmy White, who fell 6-2 adrift of Paul Hunter, the Regal Welsh Open champion, after earlier signing a potentially lucrative sponsorship contract with The Phone People, a mobile telephone company, which incorporates a number of financial incentives. Should White, for example, win the Embassy world championship in May, he will receive a £100,000 bonus.

Hunter, 19, did not put a ball in losing the first two frames, but White, who accumulated 192 points without reply, found it impossible to contain his youthful rival as the afternoon progressed.

During the concluding six frames of the session, Hunter had runs of 76, 67, 53, 47 and 49 to both take control and deflate the optimism that White was entitled to feel after fluent victories over Jon Birch and Paul Davies in the opening two rounds. Campbell or Davies will meet the winner in the quarter-finals.



White cash incentives

IN BRIEF

Rolph takes an early lead in World Cup

■ SWIMMING: Susan Rolph, of Newcastle, leads two categories of the World Cup after fast short-course times at the first round in Rio de Janeiro. Rolph's victories over Yana Klochkova, of Ukraine, in the 100 metres and 200 metres medley gave her an excellent start to the 1998-99 series, though there is a long way to go, the cup having been extended to 12 rounds.

In the sprint freestyle group, Rolph shares the lead with Katrin Meissner, of Germany, who narrowly beat the Briton in the 50 metres. However, the order was reversed in the 100 metres, the event which catapulted Rolph into the world's fastest eight when she won the Commonwealth Games title in Malaysia in September in a record time.

Cronje close to victory

■ CRICKET: Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, hit an unbeaten 147 off 141 balls yesterday to set up the prospect of a remarkable win for Free State over the West Indies. Cronje helped his side to score 272 runs during the final session of the penultimate day, leaving his side just 26 runs short of the victory target of 438. Free State, all out for 67 in their first innings, will resume at 412 for eight today. The West Indies had earlier slumped from 112 for two overnight to 188 all out. The South Africa selectors have recalled Pat Symcox, the veteran off spinner, to a 12-man squad for the first Test, which begins on Thursday.

Personal best

■ SKIING: Emma Carrick-Anderson, Great Britain's leading woman skier, achieved the finest performance of her career by finishing fourteenth in the opening run of the women's World Cup slalom in Utah on Saturday. Despite failing in the afternoon run, Carrick-Anderson's performance justified her decision to join the Finland team for training instead of working by herself. "I had a second run in the world championships two years ago, but never in the World Cup, so it is really exciting," she said. Urška Hrovat, of Slovenia, came first, with Sabine Eggar, of Austria, second.

New pair selected

■ NETBALL: Christine Maskell and Ann Marie Muller are the only uncapped players included in the 15-strong England training party announced after the senior trials at Loughborough University (Cathy Harris writes). The squad includes ten members of the Great Britain team that won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games. Vicki Diss, Judith Mann and Debbie Jones were ruled out because of injury. As part of their build-up for the world championship in September, England will play Wales on January 30.

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Resilient touring team fight fire with fire despite the cheap dismissals of Atherton and Stewart

Australia toil as England stand firm

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (third day of five): England, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 186 runs behind Australia

FATE and circumstance had stacked up so dauntingly against England over the first two days in Brisbane that it would have been no great surprise to see them crumble yesterday. It has happened before against Australia, with depressing frequency. This was, though, made of stern stuff.

Inspired by a century from Mark Butcher that spoke eloquently of a temperament untouched by a month of mishaps, England reclaimed a position of parity. Indeed, until day turned dramatically to night and a thunderstorm terminated play 66 minutes early, Australia had been reduced to unaccustomed toil.

Simon Barnes 39

Facing a total of 485 that they knew should have been 200 fewer, England batted as if intent on purging the bad memories, past and present. That their two senior players made only eight runs between them merely added to the achievement of a team that is no longer afraid to express itself.

There were times, notably early on the second day, when the fields were too compliant, but similar tactics have long been successfully pursued by South Africa. Healy alone managed to disrupt them with his disregard for conventional strokes.

For almost four hours on Saturday, he was irrepresible, lofting or nudging the ball into unguarded areas in a way guaranteed to drive all self-respecting bowlers to distraction.

The last three Australian wickets added 120, Damien Fleming's unbeaten 71 being a bonus, and, when Michael Atherton was out without scoring — squared up with a crooked bat and dismissed by Glenn McGrath for the tenth time in Tests — the ominous portents were all in place.

The forthright fashion in which Butcher and Nasser Hussain approached the final hour on Saturday was central to the fulfilment of the batting rally. Neither man would be cowed and when Stuart MacGill overpitched repeatedly at start of play yesterday, he was taken for 22 in three overs and removed from the attack.

Fleming, his run-up cut to eight paces after injury, proved to be no threat, either, and while McGrath commanded constant respect — a fact of which he seemed to be verbally reminding the batsmen at every opportunity — England rallied along at five runs an over for the first hour.

receiving a high full-toss and unerringly picking out the man at deep square-leg. With this bizarre dismissal, England, still well short of the follow-on mark, were suddenly vulnerable. It was a timely moment for luck to smile on them and Butcher recalls seeing Darrell Hair's outstretched arm signal a Kasprovic no-ball in the split-second before he heard it rattle his stumps via bat and pad.

He was eight short of 100 then and there were no further alarms before he drove MacGill precisely for four. Butcher watched the ball cross the ropes before showing a hint of animation and he had equalled the 116 made against South Africa at Headingley when falling to an acrobatic, one-handed return catch by Mark Waugh, the seventh bowler used and by no means the worst.



Butcher, of England, acknowledges the applause of the crowd after completing his century against Australia at the Gabba yesterday

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Butcher opens eyes of his critics

FROM PAT GIBSON

ENGLAND'S cricketers have never had it so good. They have specialist coaches, a physiotherapist, a fitness trainer, a psychologist and all sorts of other people to cater for their every need. In the end, however, their destiny is still in their own hands.

Consider the case of Mark Butcher, whose century in his first Test in Australia yesterday went a long way towards convincing a lot of people in these parts that the Ashes series is going to be much more keenly contested than they had been led to believe.

Butcher could hardly have made a worse start to the tour. He ducked into his second ball in Perth and cut his right eye. He collided with Peter Such, his team-mate, while training in Adelaide, cutting his left eye. When he was bowled for a duck by a grubber in Cairns, he had amassed the grand total of nine runs in five innings.

The Australian press promptly wrote him off as a no-hoper. It even crossed his own mind that he might not be picked for the first Test, but he thought to himself: "It's something that's outside your control so don't worry — keep preparing as if you are playing."

The support system did not let him down. "Everybody, the coaches, my team-mates, are all very supportive and you can tell that they are not putting it on," Butcher said. "Everybody wants everybody else to do well and, if you can stay focused in that kind of environment, you can come out the other side."

His background also helped. His father, Alan, played in one Test for England, his uncle, Ian, and his brother, Gary, have both played county cricket and he knew all about Ken Barrington's famous quip. When he was asked about his form during a particularly bad tour, he replied: "I don't know — I haven't been in long enough to find out."

Then there was his wife, Judy (nee Stewart), daughter of Micky and sister of Alec. "She's always good for keeping the spirits up," he said. "Saying things like: 'What the hell are you doing, you're costing us money?' It tends to be a bit of a spur."

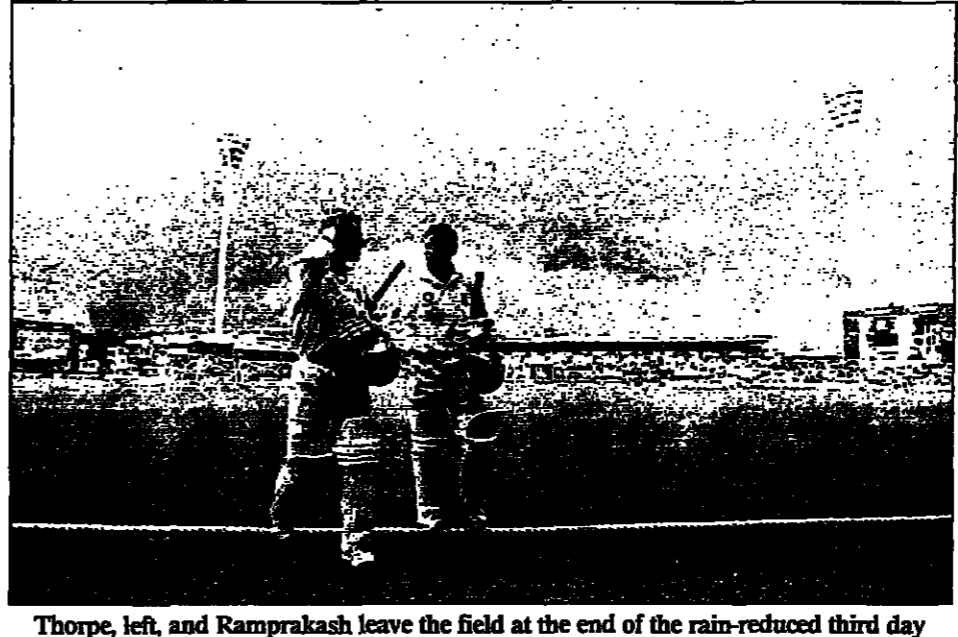
The real motivation, however, had to come from within. "Basically, the only thing you can do is to try to stay with it in your own mind," he said. "Try to stay strong and believe that you are going to score runs at some stage."

So he went out with Mike Atherton in the face of the daunting Australia total of 485 and hit his fifth ball for four. "It was the way I'd prepared for the game," he said. "I decided that perhaps the best thing to do was to try and put the bat on the ball early on. Fortunately, it hit the middle of the bat and went to the boundary."

Neither the loss of Atherton nor Stewart checked his stride. Why? "At the end of the day, you're on your own," he said.

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

Table with cricket scores for Australia and England. Includes columns for batsmen, runs, and bowling figures. Australia won the toss. England's first innings total is 116.



Thorpe, left, and Rampkrash leave the field at the end of the rain-reduced third day

MOTOR RALLYING: FINN'S FIGHT FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CUT SHORT IN CRUEL AND BIZARRE FASHION AT MILLBROOK

OF ALL the perils that could befall him and thus snatch away his world rallying championship title, Tommi Makinen had not taken into account a trundling Hillman Imp.

He was prepared to battle with Carlos Sainz, of Spain, his nearest challenger, and fight off Colin McRae in the deciding race of the season, the Network Q Rally of Great Britain, but he had not reckoned on being undone by a pool of oil, dumped by the little 31-year-old car belonging to a builder from Bodmin.

Nigel Barnett's Imp was in the motley convoy of historic cars that preceded the roaring world rally cars, led by Makinen, into the demonstration stage at the Millbrook Proving Ground in Bedfordshire.

The one-litre Imp had struggled down the M1 after a session of apparently not very effective repairs at Silverstone. Millbrook was the next to get a drenching from the Imp's innards on what should have been a fast left-hand corner.

Stewards threw cement down in an attempt to soak up the slippery pool, but when Makinen roared into the corner, his Mitsubishi silted across the slick black pool and slammed into a concrete block, severing the right rear wheel. An attempt to drive almost eight miles around Millbrook, teetering on three wheels, sparks flying from the underside of the torn bodywork, left Makinen's car shattered, along with his hopes.

Barnett, 48, was still sitting in the forlorn Imp, with Denis Green-side, his co-driver, at Millbrook as Makinen's saga unfolded, but he

claimed: "I don't feel responsible." Desperate to continue, Makinen even contemplated driving the 50 miles up the M1 to the next stage at Silverstone, where he might find sanctuary among his mechanics — and a spare wheel — until PC Simon Robinson got down from his motorcycle and decided that a three-wheeled rally car was not a suitable vehicle for a public highway.

PC Robinson turned Makinen's battered Mitsubishi off the road and back into Millbrook, ironically one of Britain's foremost centres for testing the safety of cars.

It was a shattering moment for Makinen: he arrived in Britain looking for a third consecutive world rallying title yet lasted only six stages and less than a morning.

In a fraction of a second, millions of pounds' worth of investment and Makinen's career slid into oblivion. Makinen retreated to his hotel room to contemplate how such a bizarre incident could probably prove to be the deciding factor in a world championship battle that he has waged with Sainz for the past ten months.

"I have never felt worse than this," he said. "I can't understand how something this stupid could happen. Somebody must have known this oil was on the road, but nobody told me. Now I can't do anything but sit here. How can a thing like this happen in the world championships? It is stupid, so stupid."

Makinen's hopes slip swiftly into oblivion

BY KEVIN EASON

Makinen: he arrived in Britain looking for a third consecutive world rallying title yet lasted only six stages and less than a morning.

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Makinen found sympathy among drivers angry that they had not been warned about the oil slick when they arrived at Millbrook and concerned that concrete blocks lined the route. Colin McRae, the overnight leader, warned: "That is not the way to decide a championship. I have sympathy for Tommi. He must feel desperate right now."

Sainz now only has to get his Toyota Corolla home in at least fourth place to erase Makinen's two-point lead and win the championship for a third time and, last night, everything was going to plan for the Spaniard as he finished the day's 13 stages in second place.

Sainz was not one to glory in his rival's misfortune, though, and he, too, wanted this championship decided on the tracks and forest stages of this gruelling British rally and not by a freak incident. He said: "It is a great pity. It is good for me, but I still have to finish in the points."

McRae remains on course for victory, though what had seemed to be a demonstration drive hit problems. He blasted through the first six stages, building up a 24sec lead until a heavy landing at Silverstone shattered a front wheel, leading to a puncture and brake problems. That allowed the chasing pack, including his younger brother, Alister, who was third, to catch the Scot, signalling an immense battle through the forests of Wales over the next two days.

Richard Burns, Makinen's Mitsubishi team-mate, started the day with transmission problems, but he goes into his favourite phase of the rally handily placed in sixth and confident that the forest stages will turn the rally towards the top British entrants.

"It is all to do," he said last night. "The spectator stages usually do not matter too much and we look forward to what is to come. As it turned out, this was a decisive day in the championship and I can only go and win as some compensation for Tommi."

OVERALL POSITIONS (after nine stages): 1, C McRae (GB, Subaru Impreza) 269m; 2, D Auriol (F, Toyota Corolla) 218m; 3, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota Corolla) 102m; 4, M Gronholm (Fin, Toyota Corolla) 122m; 5, A MacRae (GB, Subaru Impreza) 142m; 6, J Kankkunen (Fin, Ford Escort) 148m; 7, B They (Bel, Ford Escort) 218m; 8, R Burns (GB, Mitsubishi) 228m; 9, G de Mevius (Bel, Subaru Impreza) 254m; 10, S Lindholm (Fin, Ford Escort) 359m.



Colin McRae, left, and Sainz splash through the water during super stage No 7 of the Rally of Great Britain at Silverstone yesterday. Photographs: Clive Mason/Allsport



Sainz and McRae splash through the water during super stage No 7 of the Rally of Great Britain at Silverstone yesterday. Photographs: Clive Mason/Allsport

FA Carling Premiership: Blackburn rooted to bottom after Hodgson's unexpected departure

Sorry Rovers reaching the point of no return

TOO good to go down? Of course they are, although there will be some who find the urge to poke a little fun at their expense irresistible while the threat remains.



by Keith Pike

However, once a handful of their better players are present sidelined, they are sure to improve and, for all that there may be an appearance of crisis at the club, they have that most important asset for a relegation battle: heart.

But what about Blackburn Rovers? Footballers might bend the truth from time to time by proclaiming their unequivocal support for a manager that they seem to be doing their best to get rid of — and managers themselves have, very occasionally, been known to try to pull the wool over a few eyes — but the table rarely lies and, as Roy Hodgson was driven through the gates of Ewood Park on Saturday, it told him that he was leaving behind the worst team in the FA Carling Premiership.

The champions of 1995 were deposited in twentieth and last place, without a hint of remorse and only a modicum of style, by a Southampton side that had monopolised that position since the second Saturday of the season, that is individually less gifted but was collectively superior, that cost but a fraction by comparison but was not burdened by the baggage that comes with inflated transfer fees, wages or reputations. Or, crucially, by their followers' expectations.

A goal at the start, before some had taken their seats, put the prize within Southampton's grasp and another at the death confirmed it, by which time several thousand Blackburn supporters were already heading home. Many of those who had stayed did so merely to two their team off. "Hodgson for England," they chanted, too, with heavy irony, "little suspecting that, within an hour, their wish — in part — would be granted.

Ewood Park may stand as a monument to one man's obsession and the depth of his wallet, but the house that Jack built was crumbling before his eyes and whether Hodgson jumped or was pushed will probably matter little to those fans who have seen their stadium and their Saturday afternoons transformed by the munificence of the Blackburn benefactor, but who have now been fed a prolonged diet of mediocrity.

This was Blackburn's third league defeat on the trot, their fifth in the past six Premiership games and their fourth out of seven at home. Southampton's first victory away from The Dell also means that Blackburn are now the only team without an away win to their credit. Their next match? Liverpool away.

There are, naturally, mitigating factors. Seven of Blackburn's nine league defeats have been by the odd goal and they have been afflicted by a series of injuries that would stretch the resources of the genuinely big clubs. With Flowers and Sutton unavailable, Sherwood and the re-

turning Gallacher represented the only link with the Blackburn side that prevented Manchester United sweeping to the first five Premiership titles — and the world is in their everlasting debt for that, if for nothing else.

Yet much as Sherwood was easily the most accomplished player in this match, the Blackburn captain ensuring that they enjoyed the vast majority of possession, finding the energy to have seven decent efforts at goal himself and crossing for Blake to put in a header that was cleared off the line (Southampton, unforgivingly, scored from each of their two efforts on target), is this not the same player who was desperate to leave just a few weeks into the season? And were Blackburn under Hodgson not too often forced to field weakened teams because of their own lack of discipline? Their 11 sendings-off in 18 months are as many as Aston Villa, Derby County, Leicester City and — wait for it — Wimbledon combined have accumulated in the same period.

Curiously, on a tense occasion in which the odd indiscretion might have been expected, Blackburn succumbed all too meekly to their fate. Southampton, through the ageless Hughes and Palmer in central midfield and the redoubtable Dodd and Dryden at the heart of the defence, won just about every tackle that mattered and, while Blake postured at one end of the field, Ostenstad and the willing Beattie ran themselves into exhausted substitution at the other.

Oakley, thanks to Palmer's inventive backheel, coolly dispatched Southampton's first goal and Basham, Ostenstad's replacement, gleefully punished Dally's error for the second. Blake and Dally cost around £10 million between them while Kevin Davies, Blackburn's £7.5 million recruit from Southampton,



Oakley shoots to put Southampton in the lead against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park on Saturday

looked suitably forlorn on the substitutes' bench and predictably short of confidence once he had come off it, volleying embarrassingly wide with one effort and heading another, much clearer, opportunity past the same post. Southampton's goalscor-

ers cost not a penny between them and there are a few conclusions that will be drawn from that comparison. Outgoing while not outplayed, Blackburn were also outgung by the Southampton supporters who trekked north buoyed by the illogical

optimism that drives those condemned to fight an unequal battle. Like Hodgson, their own manager was appointed in the summer of 1997, but they had not enjoyed a dalliance with the Uefa Cup this season and for all that Blackburn have declined, no fans in the country had to put up with the sort of start that Southampton made to this campaign.

Unaware as they were of Hodgson's fate, they said they had never been tempted to turn on Jones, even when Southampton lost their first five league fixtures, took one point out of the first 18 or were knocked out of the Worthington Cup by the latest bank-rolled big-spenders, Fulham. Or even when Le Tissier, the idol of the South Coast, was being regularly omitted.

Jones, they said, deserved the chance and the time to turn things round and their patience was now bearing fruit, not least with their first victory at Ewood Park in more than two generations. Hodgson was no doubt reflecting on the haste with which others, fans and employees, rush to judgment.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J. Pugh — D. Rieckhoff (sub), A. Brown, T. Smith, S. Hendrie, G. Coole (sub), D. Morrison, S. J. Johnson, C. Dally, T. Sherwood, D. Duff, K. Gallacher, N. Blake. SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — S. Hooey, J. Dodd, R. Dryden, F. Beattie, S. Ripley, C. Palmer, M. Hartson, M. Oakley (sub), W. Brown, G. S. Ostenstad (sub), S. Barkham, C. J. Brundle (sub), H. Hinchliff. Referee: S. Dunn.

Gullit repeats cash questions



Gullit concerned

ANY hopes harboured by the Newcastle board of directors that a summit meeting last Friday might resolve their very public spat with Raed Gullit were comprehensively shattered last night when their disgruntled manager repeated his demands for more transfer funds (George Caulkin writes).

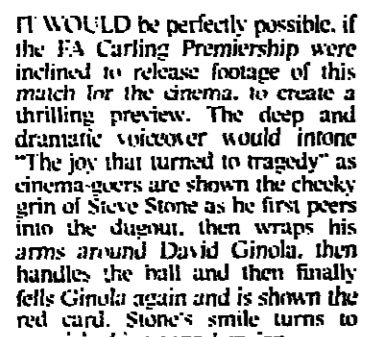
"Seven million pounds is not enough," Gullit said. In an escalation of the developing stand-off between Gullit and his embattled employers, the Dutchman responded firmly to the revelation that the club have secured a loan of £40 million to finance the redevelopment of the Millburn Stand. "The board are trying to get money, I know that, but there's a

lot of money being invested in the new stand," Gullit, whose transfer kitty is restricted to the amount he has recouped from the sales of Steve Watson and Stephane Guivareh, said.

"If we have a nice new stand but the team is not doing well, then what is the point?" Gullit said. During their meeting, Gullit was reminded by Freddy Shepherd, the Newcastle chairman, of the restraints under which he agreed to replace Kenny Dalglish three months ago.

"I knew in the beginning that I had to wait for a short time and, of course, money would be available. How long is later? I came here with a mission. I came here to bring this team up, but I can't do it without the tools."

Forest nominate Ginola for best actor award



By Alyson Rudd

IT WOULD be perfectly possible, if the FA Carling Premiership were inclined to release footage of this match for the cinema, to create a thrilling preview. The deep and dramatic voiceover would intone "The joy that turned to tragedy" as cinema-goers are shown the cheery grin of Steve Stone as he first peers into the dugout, then wraps his arms around David Ginola, then handles the ball and then finally fells Ginola again and is shown the red card. Stone's smile turns to anguished incomprehension.

"The gentle giant — an outcast seeking redemption" booms the voiceover as we see Pierre van Hooijdonk smile as his name is cheered, and then booed, Van Hooijdonk toils and then, in frustration, swipes at a free kick, as if he hates the ball, and the world, and his effort veers wildly off target. The audience gasps.

There was one wonderful Spielberg moment, in the 78th minute, when Calderwood was substituted. In order to step over the bench, he grasped George Graham's hand for balance. Their fists remained locked and held aloft for about ten seconds. "The boss who gave his men the strength to fight on" continues the emotion-charged commentary.

After all that, cinema-goers would flock to the Ritz — and they would be severely disappointed. This game had all the trimmings, but no meat. Both teams were technically and imaginatively weak. Were it not for Ginola, nothing would have happened. Ginola created the first goal with a burst of pace into the area that set up

good old English game when you could tackle one another and all that," Bassett said. "It's more like ballet now, square dancing and Morris dancing."

If only Forest had their own ballet star, they would not be in such trouble. Sure, they have a prima donna in Van Hooijdonk, but he had no one to play off. His partnership with Freedman was less Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and more Jack and Vera Duckworth.

There was no doubt that Bassett had high hopes of a goalless draw and, had Stone not been foolish, who knows? Graham even conceded that Forest dented the game in the first half. At least Graham is not distracted by results. He knows that Tottenham lack quality and insists at every opportunity how much work there is to be done.

At times in the second half, it felt as though the game were a Petri dish and Graham was conducting experiments. Ginola had lost his effectiveness by the 75th minute, but Graham made him last 90 minutes. Could Sinton be a left-sided full back? Why not find out against ten men bereft of a right-sided midfield player?

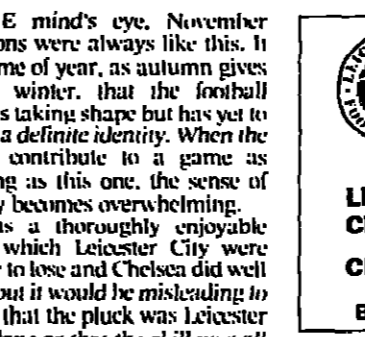
This was never going to be a great film, but, as a laboratory test, it was promising.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): E. Bardsley — S. Gray, S. Campbell, J. Campbell, A. Sinton, D. Bentley, D. Johnson, A. Brown, C. Gullit, J. Pugh, S. Hendrie, T. Smith, S. Hendrie, G. Coole (sub), D. Morrison, S. J. Johnson, C. Dally, T. Sherwood, D. Duff, K. Gallacher, N. Blake.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): J. Pugh — D. Rieckhoff (sub), A. Brown, T. Smith, S. Hendrie, G. Coole (sub), D. Morrison, S. J. Johnson, C. Dally, T. Sherwood, D. Duff, K. Gallacher, N. Blake.

Referee: S. Dunn.

Spirited Leicester get no change from De Goeij



By Michael Henderson

IN THE mind's eye, November afternoons were always like this. It is the time of year, as autumn gives way to winter, that the football season is taking shape but has yet to acquire a definite identity. When the players contribute to a game as satisfying as this one, the sense of memory becomes overwhelming.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable match, which Leicester City were unlucky to lose and Chelsea did well to win, but it would be misleading to suggest that the pluck was Leicester City's alone or that the skill was all Chelsea's. There were big hearts on both sides and an equal willingness to make the game worth watching. Richly entertaining and contested in a good spirit, it made for a bracing afternoon.

Irrespective of the importance of the result to Chelsea, who have now gone 18 games without defeat, one's first thought was of Leicester. The ability of clubs like them to survive in the FA Carling Premiership ultimately means more than the success of a glided few and the difference that Martin O'Neill has made at Filbert Street is one of the stories.

The Leicester manager was deprived of Heskley and Collet for this game, so, an hour before the kick-off, he switched Elliott, his dependable centre half, to play as a striker, and gainely he played. It was not a successful play in the end, but if Leicester maintain this spirit, they are not going to lose many more games. As they swept forward in the first

half, using Guppy on the left to infiltrate the Chelsea defence, they showed how far they have come in the past two years. No longer a side happy just to smother and shuffle, they matched Chelsea for imagination and should really have been two goals ahead before they conceded a soft goal to Zola on the half-hour.

Zola, who was to end the game with a second goal, struck altogether more cleanly in the fourth minute of injury-time, sneaked that opener after Keller and Walsh collided in going for Goldback's cross. When Puyet nudged in the second goal ten minutes later, following up his own header, which came back from the post, it was nothing less than hard-faced larceny.

Until Tzeit popped up in touch in Elliott's header a minute later, Leicester could find no way of beating De Goeij. How well the Chelsea goalkeeper played in that period, saving superbly from Fenton, and pretty well from Elliott.

He was to remain in tip-top form, denying Leicester with hands and feet and, when he was beaten, Leboeuf brilliantly headed off the line from Elliott.

Zola, skipping about the pitch, was the man who capitalised on De Goeij's good work. As well as scoring his goals, he struck the free kick — from which Flo restored Chelsea's two-goal advantage. It was a harsh decision to penalise Savage for an alleged foul on Poyet and Zola's kick, which hit the post, enabled Flo to score from the rebound.

Leicester pressed until the end and had only Guppy's wonderful volley to show for their efforts. It was the best goal of all, taken without pause for thought and curled in, left-footed from the edge of the penalty area with some nonchalance.

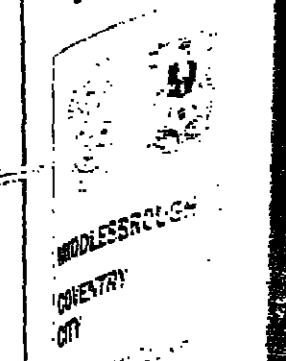
"For the side we had out, we were absolutely fantastic," O'Neill said. "We absolutely pulverised a championship-looking side in the first 20 minutes. But when you dominate a game as we did, you need a goal. There was a goal and it went to them. The spectators might live a hundred years to see the effort that the players put in today."

"With Chelsea's array of world-class players, they are entitled to beat us 2-0, but my team are totally distressed that we have lost."

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): M. Keller — F. Savage, S. Walsh, R. Savage (sub), S. Campbell, S. Poyet, M. Hartson, T. Zenger, S. Guppy, S. Gray, J. Pugh, S. Hendrie, T. Smith, S. Hendrie, G. Coole (sub), D. Morrison, S. J. Johnson, C. Dally, T. Sherwood, D. Duff, K. Gallacher, N. Blake.

Referee: P. Easton.

Coventry fail to handle spirited display



Inspired Celtic Wolves excel

32 Wolves excel 32

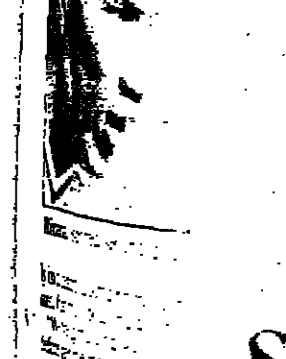
dom of the box and picked his spot. West Ham are not so transfixed that they do not give opportunities away and Shaqye Hisslop had to produce a fine one-handed save to thwart a Prior header. It was a rare threat from Derby, though, whose confidence is as low as one might expect from a team that has not won at home for two months.

Their defence was stretched by West Ham's endless running and they did well to last until the 72nd minute without conceding another goal. When it came, it was worth the wait as Marc Kellar struck a rasping shot from 18 yards that cannoned in from the underside of the crossbar.

Hartson was playing only because of a calf injury to Ian Wright, who spent the afternoon as chief cheerleader in the visitors' dugout. The Wales international had missed three games after being dropped, but he formed a potent partnership with the

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): M. Poom — S. Prior, H. Carter, G. J. Hagan, S. Gray, J. Laurson, R. Deane, D. Powell (sub), E. Erano, B. J. Bonner, A. Donoghue, F. Bly, S. Gray (sub), L. Conley, D. Sumner.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S. Hisslop — J. Poyet, R. Farnhead, M. Ruddock, T. S. S. Lomas, F. Lampard, M. Keller (sub), S. Potts, B. — E. Berkovic — J. Hartson, P. K. Referee: A. White.

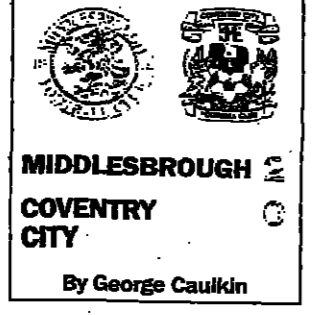


Lampard helps Keller celebrate scoring West Ham United's second goal against Derby County

Redknapp fails to anger

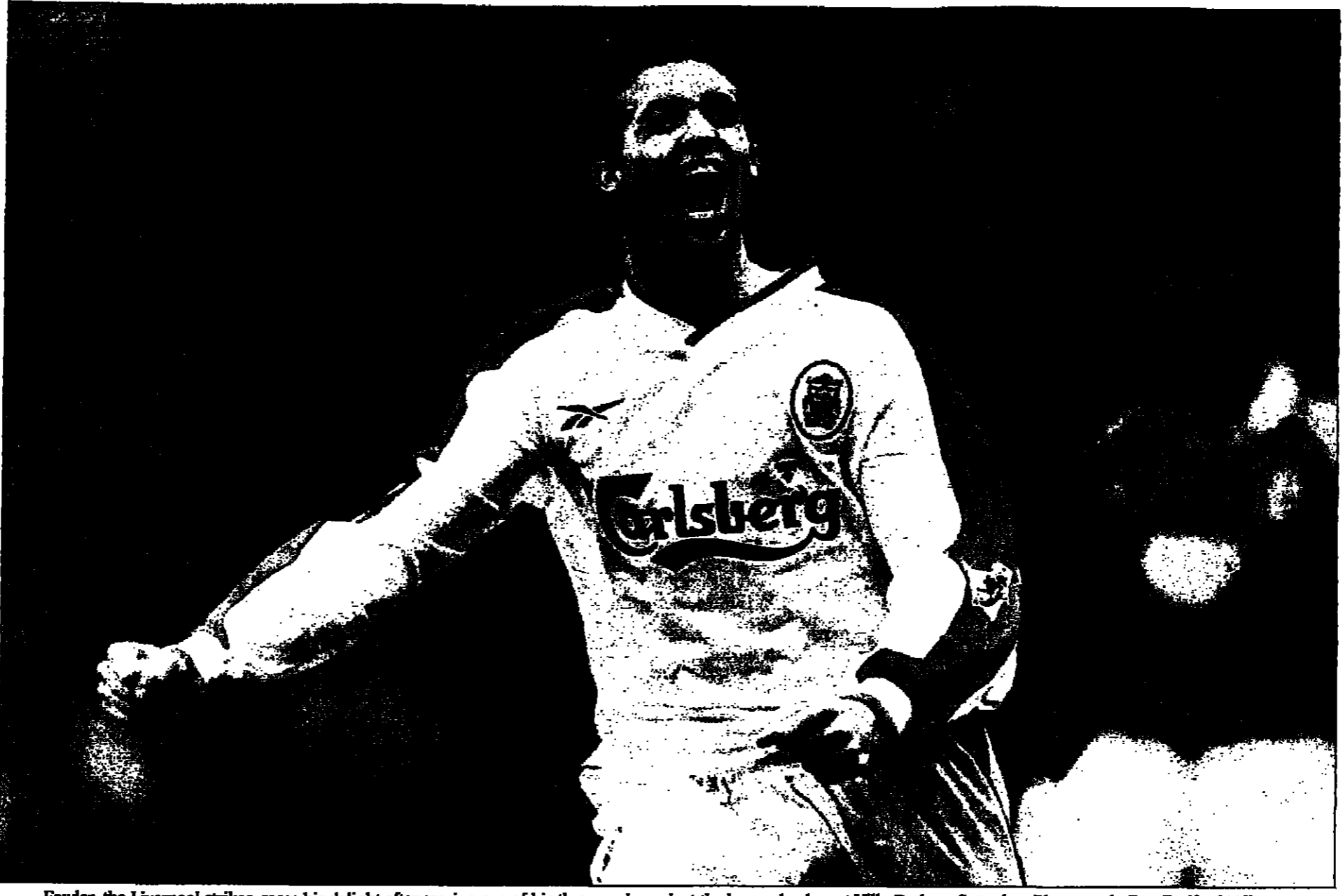
FA Carling Premiership: Top three all falter as Fowler rediscovers his goalscoring touch

Coventry fail to handle spirited display



MIDDLESBROUGH vs COVENTRY CITY

THE scale of their ambition has seldom been doubted, their talent rarely questioned. Their financial muscle has been the source of sneering envy, their purpose-built home perused with awe. What Middlesbrough have found harder to deflect over the past few, extraordinary seasons is that the overall effect has resembled a jumble, thrown together haphazardly. Not any longer.

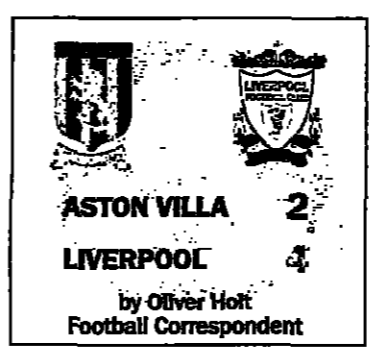


Fowler, the Liverpool striker, roars his delight after scoring one of his three goals against the league leaders at Villa Park on Saturday. Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

Gregory takes heart from fighting show

IT IS impossible to keep John Gregory down. Like Alex Ferguson, the Aston Villa manager seems to be even better in defeat than in victory. He was disappointed that Villa had failed their first real FA Carling Premiership test of the season, after 12 games unbeaten, but he was far from dispirited. "Arsenal had their first loss after 13 games last season," he said. "Look what happened to them."

They went down fighting, too, like Newcastle United under Kevin Keegan, raging and kicking against defeat, never giving up, always looking as though they might salvage something from a game that was surely the most uplifting, extravagant match of the Premiership season so far. There was exhilaration in the spirited manner of their defeat just as there was rejoicing in the style of Liverpool's unexpected victory.



Collymore with an easy chance to get Villa back into the game five minutes before half-time, but he headed it wide from six yards out. By then, Collymore had already been upstaged by his old Anfield sparring partner, Fowler, still working his way back to full fitness after a long recovery from a knee ligament injury, looked as sharp as he ever has in the Liverpool attack and he lacerated a Villa defence that had looked as though it might never bleed.

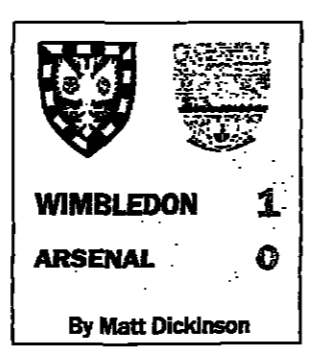


Ricard: scored second goal

ly in a team lacking prima donnas, but now boasting a core. "We've got a long way to go before people can start putting us up there with the very best, but we've got a lot of honest lads here," Townsend said. "It's great at my age to be surrounded by guys who have such great spirit and enthusiasm. I might moan from time to time on the training ground, but I genuinely love my football, especially at a club with so much ambition and a desire to be something."

Sulky Arsenal display no stomach for battle

ARSENAL play hosts at Wembley on Wednesday with their European Cup Champions' League prospects seemingly as doomed as the twin towers. As if shaky form and a lingering goal phobia were not bad enough, the loss of Patrick Vieira and Dennis Bergkamp through injury has taken a wrecking ball to their chances of advancement from group E. With Emmanuel Petit already suspended for the vital match against Lens, the club's stubbornness in adversity is a slender source of comfort.



By Matt Dickinson

but, if the young Frenchman was trying to do it all by himself, it was understandable, given his team-mates' lack of penetration. The shortage of goals, as Wenger pointed out, is a collective problem. Marc Overmars was a disappointment and while his manager cited a tough game for Holland against Germany three days earlier in his defence, he has yet to discover the edge that brought him 12 league goals last season.

Strolling United pay for smug approach

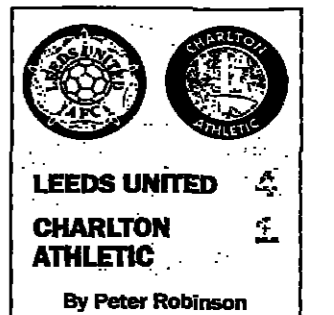
SUCCESS breeds confidence, confidence can breed complacency, complacency can breed contempt. At Hillsborough on Saturday, Manchester United stood accused of not taking Sheffield Wednesday seriously, of treating the FA Carling Premiership fixture with scant regard and of allowing their minds to focus on more meaningful matters ahead.



By Russell Kempson

howler, it might be wise that he bring forward the deadline. Catching Alexandersson's shot was easy, hanging on to it was not and he comically juggled the ball over the goal line. Cole equalised with a delightful finish after exchanging passes with Yorke, but United's resurgence was short-lived. After Irwin should have been awarded a penalty, when he was brought down by Alexandersson, they even resorted to foul means. Stam nodded on Beckham's corner and Scholes palmed it into the net. Maradona might have got away with it, but Scholes did not and was rightly cautioned. There ended the United flurry. Whereas Wednesday snapped at heels and gradually grew in stature, United ambled around in the belief that it would all come good.

O'Leary revives the style of the Seventies



LEEDS UNITED vs CHARLTON ATHLETIC

ARSENAL was the blueprint no question. George Graham arrived in Yorkshire intent on recreating the glory days at Highbury, the championships, the cups, the old one-itis. The formula was a proven success and, if it was not lovely to look at, well, this was Leeds United, they hadn't been lovely to look at since Tony Currie. Not a problem. He was halfway there, too. The defence had been largely sorted out and good young players were coming through, ready, perhaps, in a season or two for the hurly-burly of the FA Carling Premiership. He always did like having his own youngsters in a team, players who had been brought up in the "Arsenal" way, the likes of Adams, Roostale, Thomas and Merson. It was bubbling nicely — and then he left.



Bowyer: dominant

way around — Harry Kewell, the Australian prodigy, has a licence to dribble almost at will. Lee Bowyer is getting forward more — and it is paying off. The lads were scrambling over each other to make the headlines on Saturday. Bowyer, 21, was foot-pet in midfield, an England candidate scoring against his former club, Kewell, 19, ran riot. Alan Smith, 18, youth-team product and local boy made good, who scored with his first touch on his debut at Liverpool a week earlier, scored again shortly after coming on as a substitute. Hasselbaink was the only goal of the first half, a messy affair overshadowed by a fine save by Martyn that denied Tiler an equaliser. Bowyer's, after the break, was a better effort, set up by Kewell's pass and given a cute finish. The Charlton Athletic reply, from Mortimer, was better still, a stunning, improbable drive from a tight angle on the left. Yet hope of a Charlton revival was squashed after barely a minute when Smith finished a flawless move, begun by Kewell, featuring his own dummy and a back-heel by Hasselbaink before a firm drive into the bottom corner. Kewell punished the Charlton offside trap before the end, Bowyer returning the compliment to put him through to leave the diving one way while he danced the other. It was, O'Leary said later, a good day for Leeds. He also emphasised that there will be harder ones in the future, when young legs will be tired and people will talk about learning curves, but the foundations have been laid.

FOOTBALL

Firm convictions overturned by vintage display

THE Celtic supporters who had brought charges of mental cruelty this season were awarded immense damages on Saturday, with a pay-out on a scale more commonly associated with whimsical courts in California. There was to be ample compensation for all the deeply-wounded feelings as Celtic won by a margin they had not achieved in an Old Firm match since 1966.

Kevin McCarrar sees a gifted veteran inspire Celtic to a rout of their rivals

defence and scored twice in his first Old Firm match. He was also to be the target of the savage tackle from behind that saw Scott Wilson, the Ibrox side's centre back, sent off in the 21st minute.

By then, Rangers were already a goal behind. After 12 minutes, Phil O'Donnell directed play down the left. Simon Donnelly crossed, Henrik Larsson dummied and Moravcik then blasted his exquisite technique. Every player is supposed to find it hard to hit a ball as it runs across his body, but with the side of his left foot, the Slovakian sent a whipping shot low into the corner of the net from 20 yards.

In an afternoon of lethal mauling, Moravcik visited devastation on many areas of the visitors' side, with one particularly eye-catching spell sent tormenting Porri. On arrival last month, in a £300,000 transfer from MSV Duisburg, he met with ignorance and scorn in some quarters.

His 74 international appearances and eight distinguished years in French football were disregarded and Moravcik, 33, was treated as if he were

the drooling resident of an old folks' home. The characteristic has proved preposterous. At his age, a sportsman's future has strict limits, but the spectators at Celtic Park will prize every minute of excellence that is left.

Moravcik increased the Celtic lead in the second half by snapping home a header from a cross by Tom Boyd and Larsson added the third after outpacing Hendry. Although O'Donnell van Bronckhorst then struck for Rangers with a perfect free kick, Celtic soon reasserted themselves as O'Donnell lifted the ball over for Larsson to head past Niemi.

Larsson, who has probably been the best performer in Scotland in recent months, released Burchill, who drilled in a controlled drive that was the last blow delivered to a punch-drunk Rangers. Burchill, Tony Warner, Mjalby and Moravcik had never before taken part in an Old Firm game and they have surely formed a false impression of the fixture.

O'Donnell and Larsson excelled in support of Moravcik and Celtic were strong in all areas, but Rangers' problems were compounded by the errors of Dick Advocate, the manager, who made no substitutions in the immediate aftermath of Wilson's dismissal.

The timing of the debate was bruising for the Ibrox side. Yesterday saw the tenth anniversary of David Murray's purchase of Rangers and it has proved to be a bleak birthday. In interviews, the chairman takes an understandable pride in the growth of the club and its vast expenditure, but that leaves him open to the charge that Rangers' foolishness with a chequebook is also unsurpassed.

Murray has spent £32 million on new players this season alone and hopes to sign Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, next summer. The scorers of Celtic's five goals cost, in total, less than £1 million.

CELTIC (4-4-2) A Warner — T Boyd, J Halliday, A Soutis, S Murray — V Burchill, P Larsson, S Donnelly (sub: D Hamrah, 80m), P O'Donnell — N Larsson, L Moravcik (sub: M Burchill, 62)

RANGERS (4-4-2) A Niemi — S Porri, C Hendry, S Wilson, A Munro — A Kanehisa, S Reid, A Wilson, G B Ferguson (sub: I Ferguson, 72), G van Bronckhorst, J Albentz (sub: G Dume, 60) — S Guvach, R Wallace. Referee: W Young



Larsson, above, acknowledges the ecstatic Celtic supporters after scoring the third goal and, below, Burchill completes the destruction of Rangers. Photographs: Marc Aspland



Ipswich suffer daylight robbery

Ipswich Town 0
Bolton Wanderers 1

BY ANDY STEPHENS

FORTUNE favours the brave, so they say, and nobody at Portman Road on Saturday could argue otherwise. Bolton Wanderers, depleted by injuries and out of form, were going to need all hands on deck to trouble an Ipswich Town side that had won seven of their previous nine matches.

Or so everybody thought. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, had other ideas. His response was to leave Arnar Gunnlaugsson, his club's leading scorer this season with 12 goals, on the substitutes' bench until eight minutes from time.

It proved to be an inspired gamble. The Nationwide League first division game, still goalless, had drifted into injury-time when Gunnlaugsson manoeuvred from one side of the pitch to the other before passing to Bob Taylor, who, with his back to goal, spun and thumped the ball into the Ipswich net — via the woodwork — from 15 yards.

"Arnar has been struggling with sore shins this week," Todd said, "but it was a tactical decision to leave him out and nothing else. I felt Bob and Dean [Holdsworth] were the best combination for this particular match."

Not that Holdsworth and Taylor caused Ipswich many problems. Holdsworth's only meaningful contribution was getting his face in the way of a fiercely-struck free kick by Venus, the Ipswich defender, while Taylor, by his own admission, was anonymous until his final kick of the match.

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, felt that his team were unfortunate not to extend their impressive run. He walked into the press conference with his hands in his pockets, as if to emphasise that he was not going to have them picked twice in one afternoon.

"We had 90 per cent of the play, but we didn't get the breaks in front of goal and they got caught by a sucker-punch at the end," he said.

Sucker-punch? Todd would prefer to call it a masterstroke. Ipswich Town (3-5-2) P Wright — M Threlk, J Mowbray, M Venus — J Farnley, J Chapman, F Deer, B Pettit (sub: I Hooper, 61m) — D Johnson, J Soutis

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2) J Jackson — N Cox, M Whitlow, M Fish, J Newson — S Collins (sub: R King, 50m), S O'Brien, L Taylor — G Whitehead, D Connolly

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2) K Poole — G Powell, D Pugh, M Johnson, S O'Neill (sub: H Fother, 70), J McGuffie, C Hackett, C Jackson, C Haynes, D J. Guerin, 58) — P Hill, P Furlong. Referee: S Bennett

Deehan feels long arm of the law

Queens Park Rangers 1
Sheffield United 2

BY BILL EDGAR

THE higher the stakes and emotions in football, it seems, the tighter the game is gripped by the long arm of the law. The top half of the Nationwide League first division, one step from the FA Carling Premiership riches, is a particularly fraught environment, where proceedings have had a legal theme this season.

John Deehan, the Sheffield United assistant manager, had the chance to ponder this phenomenon on his way to Hammersmith Police Station on Saturday afternoon while his side were still battling to retain their 2-1 lead. He had been led away after being aggrieved by the 75th minute dismissal of Peter Katchourou, his striker. A police spokeswoman said: "A 42-year-old man was arrested during the game for using threatening words and behaviour. He was bailed to return to Hammersmith Police Station on December 17."

The incident came a month after Bradford City faced Huddersfield Town in the High Court over a tackle that kept Gordon Watson out for around 18 months. Then, three weeks ago, Rob Styth, a referee, was threatened with a writ by David Sullivan, the Birmingham City co-owner, after he sent off Peter Ndlovu for two supposed dives.

Certainly, Steve Bruce, the Sheffield player-manager, suggested that he would have preferred anyone but Paul Danson as referee for this match, even though United's win lifted them into fourth place. The former Premiership official, who sent off Katchourou for elbowing Langley, had earlier given Rangers a penalty, from which Peacock scored, after Steiner fell under Derry's challenge.

Bruce said: "Petre was just shielding a ball with his arms. Thousands of people were shouting and swearing and a policeman comes and arrests the assistant-manager." First-half goals from Stuart and Katchourou gave United a lead they clung on to despite a late Rangers onslaught.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-5-2) L McKee — K Rendy, S Morrow, B Satchell — A Haveland (sub: A Scott, 80m), P Long, M Phipps, K Poole (sub: R Steiner, 40) — K Gatten, M Sheen

SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-5-2) S Tracy — N Miller, S Bruce, S Gordon, G Stuart, I Hamilton, C Woodhouse, W Quinn — P Peacock, D Sanders. Referee: P Danson

Cardiff punished for profligacy

Swansea City 2
Cardiff City 1

BY DAVID POWELL

CARDIFF CITY conceded their first goals in more than 400 minutes of Nationwide League third division football yesterday, losing a match that had been theirs for the taking. Swansea went in at the interval a goal down and seemingly without an attacking idea in their head, yet, despite appearances, these Swans were not dead in the water.

While not quite matching the flair with which Cardiff had dominated the opening 45 minutes, Swansea underwent a metamorphosis after the break and triumphed over their South Wales neighbours in their ability to convert chances into goals. "They outplayed us," John Hollins, the Swansea manager, admitted, reflecting on the first half. The second half, though, was quite different.

The Cardiff supporters, penned in at one end, thus had to view almost the entire match from long range. Most of the second-half action took place in the goal farthest from them, where Roger Freestone had performed heroics for Swansea in the first half.

Two powerfully drilled shots, one from Martin Thomas after 69 minutes to equalise, the other from Manhe

Lee building a strong case to stay

Wolverhampton Wanderers 3
Birmingham City 1

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WANTED: a manager to recreate the good old days, to relieve Wolverhampton Wanderers of the tedium of the Nationwide League first division and to return them to the highest league in the land. Applications are still being taken; write to John Richards, managing director, c/o Molineux Stadium, Waterloo Road WV1 4QR. No time-wasters, please.

Wolves have had about 150 enquiries since Mark McGhee left by mutual consent three weeks ago, including a 7-year-old who fancied that he could do the job until Richards balked at the youngster's idea of bringing in his dad as first-team coach and his mum as kit-washer. A London detective and a deputy headmaster were also rejected.

However, when Richards and his fellow board members sit down to sift through the serious contenders, probably 25 of them and probably this week, they might not have to look outside the gleaming gold stadium. Colin Lee, McGhee's assistant and now caretaker, is doing quite nicely thank you. The side are unbeaten in four matches since the interval. He roused his teammates into action by example, with Pool having to save three times from the young Ireland striker. Birmingham's composure swiftly deteriorated after Naylor had equalised in the 72nd minute. He collected Currie's pass, drifted past McCarthy and Purse and then tucked the ball under Poole.

Robinson curled in a 20-yard effort six minutes later and lobbed in his second in time added on for stoppages. The home fans roared their approval of Lee and he applauded back. If he could mastermind a victory against West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns next Sunday, perhaps Richards need search no further.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2) M O'Riordan, F Clark, S Rodney — K Mayall, R Johnson, S Collins (sub: R King, 50m), S O'Brien, L Taylor, M Phipps, D Connolly

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2) K Poole — G Powell, D Pugh, M Johnson, S O'Neill (sub: H Fother, 70), J McGuffie, C Hackett, C Jackson, C Haynes, D J. Guerin, 58) — P Hill, P Furlong. Referee: S Bennett



Jackson: exuberant

Jackson's joy proves infectious

Huddersfield Town 2
Bradford City 1

BY STEPHEN WOOD

PETER JACKSON, the manager of Huddersfield Town, is a wise man. It might not be instantly noticeable from his madcap demeanour around the club, but there is a reason for it. For, if he ever calmed down and became complacently, the first feelings of doubt would start to creep in. How far can an abundance of team spirit take you?

While he retains his overwhelming sense of belief, Huddersfield will remain a fascinating proposition in the Nationwide League first division. Jackson, nicknamed "Wacko Jacko" by the fans, is still only 37 years of age and his youthful exuberance was evident as he jumped around on the sidelines and laughed and joked with everyone afterwards.

His joy swept around the rest of the McAlpine Stadium, too, possibly fooling the uninitiated into thinking that Huddersfield were a team destined for the FA Carling Premiership. However, this was only their first win in six attempts and it would not be a surprise if they endured a similar barren run again.

Jackson's outlook will not allow him to accept the fact that Bradford were a different class. Their passing, movement and ambition ensured that they dominated much of this encounter. That the visitors left with nothing to show for their efforts was due to a combination of wasteful finishing and inspired goalkeeping.

After Robbie Blake had given Bradford an early lead, Isaiah Rankin and Lee Mills had chances to increase their side's advantage. Both were thwarted by Nico Vaesen, the Huddersfield goalkeeper, who was bought from Eendracht Aals, of Belgium, for £80,000. Mills became increasingly frustrated and his confinement with the referee's assistant on the final whistle will be reported to the Football Association.

Keegan's collecting pays off

Fulham 2
Chesterfield 1

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

MANAGERS of Nationwide League second division teams abound to play Fulham, beware: if any of your players perform too well, Kevin Keegan might try to buy them.

Take Barry Hayles, for instance. He impressed at Craven Cottage as Bristol Rovers a few weeks ago and, on Saturday, he turned up there again, this time in a Fulham shirt, with Rovers £2 million better off. Also making his debut was Steve Finnan, bought for £600,000 from Notts County. Where will it all end?

Keegan claims that it already has. We shall see. He himself admitted that the signing of Hayles, arguably the division's most promising attacker, had been less a necessity than an opportunity that he felt he could not miss.

As it turned out, Hayles had a poor game and came off in the second half, but Fulham are getting their money's worth from Paul Peschisolidi. Revelling in a role behind the front two, he scored a superb opener after 17 minutes, moving in from the right and sending a 25-yard left-foot shot over the bar and into the far corner. He then converted a penalty nine minutes into the second half after Jules had brought down Horsfield.

Chesterfield, who had previously shown few signs of the qualities that had taken them into sixth place, halved the deficit on the hour when Howard Wolvess in a Reeves cross from close range, while Mark Taylor was called upon to make a double save from Holland and then Reeves.

FULHAM (4-4-2) M Smith — M Johnson, M Johnson, S O'Neill (sub: H Fother, 70), J McGuffie, C Hackett, C Jackson, C Haynes, D J. Guerin, 58) — P Hill, P Furlong. Referee: S Bennett

CHESTERFIELD (4-4-2) M Vassell — J. Guerin, 58) — P Hill, P Furlong. Referee: S Bennett

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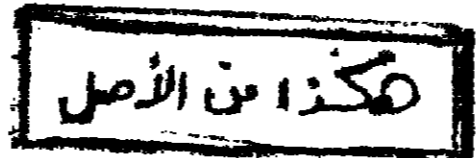
5/4 EVERTON 2/1 DRAW NEWCASTLE 2/1

Goodison Park, Kick-off 8.00pm, Live on Sky

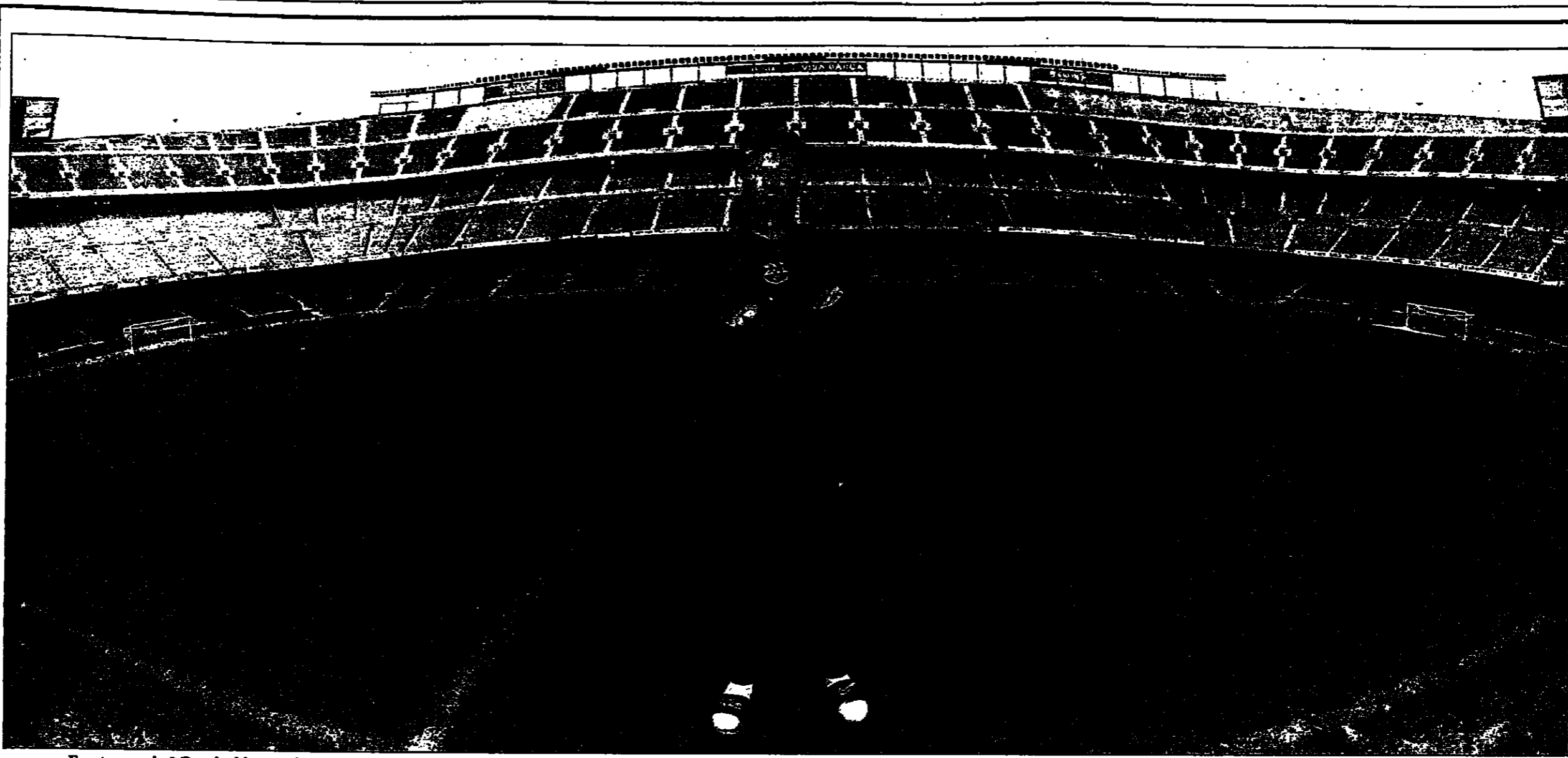
CORRECT SCORE	HALF TIME / FULL TIME	FIRST GOALSCORER
13/2 1-0 15/2	EVERTON - EVERTON 11/4	6/1 BAKAYOKO (E)
10/1 2-0 12/1	EVERTON - DRAW 12/1	13/2 DALGLISH (N)
8/1 2-1 10/1	EVERTON - NEWCASTLE 28/1	8/1 ANDERSSON (N)
20/1 3-0 33/1	DRAW - EVERTON 5/1	12/1 DACOURT (E)
16/1 3-1 25/1	DRAW - DRAW 4/1	12/1 HAMANN (E)
25/1 3-2 35/1	DRAW - NEWCASTLE 6/1	14/1 COLLIS (E)
15/2 0-0 13/2	NEWCASTLE - EVERTON 25/1	14/1 GILLESPIE (N)
11/2 1-1 11/2	NEWCASTLE - DRAW 12/1	16/1 CHARVET (N)
14/1 2-2 14/1	NEWCASTLE - NEWCASTLE 19/2	13/2 NO GOALSCORER

Other scores on request. Own goals do not count. Bets void if match not completed.

FOR MORE FOOTBALL PRICES SEE CH4 TEXT P601/2/3



Friday November 23 1998
Empty departure
in fails to
de anger
Redknapp



Empty promise? Despite his towering reputation and past achievements, Van Gaal is under increasing pressure from the supporters who make Barcelona the biggest football club in the world. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Camp followers put King Louis under new threat of exile

Oliver Holt meets the Barcelona manager who knows his team must beat Manchester United on Wednesday

He came to Barcelona like a Sun King, a Louis with the splendour of a Bourbon, bedecked with honours and with a reputation as a great footballing leader. He looked imperious and haughty, with his high forehead and his dismissive manner, and all of Catalonia was sure that he was the man to lead them into a new era of conquest.

Criticism of him and the way the team is playing redoubled after the calamity of the home defeat by Bayern Munich three weeks ago. Yesterday, calls for his dismissal grew after Barcelona slumped to a 1-0 defeat away to Real Mallorca on Saturday, which left them third in the Primera Liga.

The problem for Van Gaal is that even though he led Barcelona to their first Spanish league and cup double for 39 years in his first season in charge last season, even though he led Ajax to three domestic championships and victory in the European Cup in his time in charge there, this was the season in which all Barcelona supporters had convinced themselves that they were going to win the European Cup.

It is their centenary year, 100 years since Joan Gamper and the other 31 founder members of the club began organising the first matches at the Sole Gimnasium. The European Cup final will be played at the Nou Camp and it seemed as if it was their destiny to be masters of Europe this season. But it is not working out like that.

However, even Owen might have found life difficult on Friday. Managers are fond of referring to "schoolboy defending", but the quality of defensive play in the first half was high. Dowie and Kennedy worked especially hard to deny the England forwards, aided by McLeod, the sweeper.

It is organised insanity, with performance bound to be the first casualty, and so it was for Bayern Munich, who, defeated for only the second time in the Bundesliga this season, succumbed 1-0 before 75,000 people in the stadium of Hertha Berlin. What aided Munich? Giovanni Elber, the effervescent Brazilian around whom their attack revolves, was reduced to the role of late substitute after flying to Germany from Fortaleza, where he had sparked Brazil to a 5-1 home victory over Russia.

Russian excuses were valid: they fielded effectively a B-team that had arrived in Brazil to be greeted by a six-hour time difference and, after enduring sub-zero temperatures at home, by 40C of heat — all that after a 30-hour trip from Moscow. What works one way rebounds in the other and not only was Elber too tired to do his duty for Munich, so Rivaldo, his partner in attack for Brazil, could do nothing to prevent Barcelona falling 1-0 to the Spanish championship leaders, Real Mallorca. The goalscorer, into the wrong net,

Light relief in defeat for Druids

Flexsys Cefn Druids.....1
Caernarfon Town.....5

THE Druids from Cefn Mawr will not remember their second Welsh Cup meeting with Caernarfon Town in successive seasons with any affection. Its high point was a glancing header by Paul Williams that put them level at 1-1 in the 32nd minute.

McLaughlin bows out on high note



McLeod, left, of Scotland, evades Prince, of England, during his side's 1-0 victory

Unlike the England team, who now come under the wing of the Football Association, the Scotland side is still run by the Scottish Schools FA (SSFA). McLaughlin is a schoolteacher with Scottish FA qualifications.



Control of the team may be in new hands, but the Victory Shield goes back a long way. It was first contested in 1924, with Scotland victorious, although the history of the competition also includes an 8-2 Wembley win for England over the old enemy in 1950. It will come as no surprise that

the record scorer for England Schoolboys in one season is a certain Michael Owen, the Liverpool striker, with 12 goals. However, even Owen might have found life difficult on Friday. Managers are fond of referring to "schoolboy defending", but the quality of defensive play in the first half was high.

Cruel workload takes edge off European elite

FRANK LEBOEUF is not alone. On Saturday, in his column in *The Times*, he spelt out the players' lament that, with officialdom apparently unearring, the performers can hardly give their best in so many tournaments, with so many demands on mind and body.

Waldron breaks Bradfield resistance

Hampton.....1
Bradfield.....0

HAMPTON reached the semi-final of the annual Boodle and Dunthorne Cup for independent schools for the first time after a taut game of rare commitment, a looping headed goal in the 72nd minute by Matt Waldron, the captain, settling the first of the quarter-finals, which are being played this week.

of unrelenting activity for someone to vary the pace, to hold the ball and to consider where to place the most telling pass. Players sometimes hurried unnecessarily, when they were not under pressure, because they had not succeeded before receiving the ball how closely they were being marked.

Bradfield came back strongly in the second half and Hampton began losing possession in midfield and allowed passes to go astray. When Stone went off with double vision in the 63rd minute, the odds had tilted towards Bradfield. However, Naidu became increasingly authoritative and it was from his free kick that Waldron headed the decisive goal.

Hampton clearly benefited from undertaking a tour of Spain at half-term. Iain Maclean, the coach, said: "Two weeks at half-term can break up the season and having a tour at that point can not only keep the momentum going, but against teams such as we met in Spain, can toughen up the players."

Hampton (4-4-2): G. Comer — R. Dixon, M. Waldron, C. Hoyle, D. Simpson — B. Naidu (capt), A. Bratt, S. 7/11, A. Stone (sub); T. Jackson, G. K. Warren, A. Nisbet — A. Fleming, S. Matthews. BRADFIELD (4-4-2): N. Howells — T. Welland, W. Dinger, A. Goveat, M. Laines — R. Dimes, A. Jeffrey, J. Burnett (sub); M. Oyles, S. M. Clark — J. Burgess, S. Hooper (sub); J. Dimes, 7/1. Referee: C. Henderson.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with match results for FA Carling Premiership, including teams like Aston Villa, Liverpool, Chelsea, Tottenham, and Manchester United.

Table with match results for FA Carling Premiership, including teams like Blackburn, Southampton, Middlesbrough, Coventry, and Sheffield Wednesday.

Table with match results for FA Carling Premiership, including teams like Derby, West Ham, Charlton, and Leeds.

Carling F.A. Premiership logo and table with HOME and AWAY columns for various teams.

Table with match results for Scotland Premier League, including teams like Aberdeen, Celtic, Rangers, and Hearts.



Didier Deschamps, of Juventus, is collared by Alessandro Pane, of Empoli, right, in the Serie A match in Turin yesterday. The game finished in a goalless draw to leave Juventus still in third place. Photograph: Claudio Papi

Table with match results for Overseas leagues, including German, Spanish, French, Dutch, and Portuguese leagues.

Table with match results for Nationwide Football League, including First, Second, and Third Divisions.

Table with match results for Vernons Lottery Football Game, including teams like Bristol City, Burnley, and Luton.

Table with match results for Non-League and National Leagues, including Premier Division, DR Martens, and Ryman.

Table with match results for Non-League and National Leagues, including Interlink Express Alliance, Southern Amateur League, and National leagues.

Table with match results for Non-League and National Leagues, including Premier League, Second Division, and Third Division.

RESULTS FOR SATURDAY'S MATCHES. There were two score draws, Bristol City v Stockport, and Luton v Barnley. Luton's victory over Barnley was the first of three consecutive wins for Luton.

Large vertical advertisement for Antwe battle, featuring a stylized figure and text.

Rob Hughes talks to the man hoping the English connection will save his beloved club

Antwerp united in battle for survival

It is Saturday night at Royal Antwerp, the club that Manchester United has chosen to become its twin on the Continent. The temperature is -5C and 3,000 souls are scattered around a stadium built more than 75 years ago to accommodate 60,000 spectators. The "Great Old", as the club is known, is, like many of its Belgian counterparts, looking to a foreign liaison for the breath of life.

Just minutes into the second division game against Maasland, inspiration arrives. Sandro da Silva, a Brazilian, opens up midfield; Danny Higginbotham, an English youth, powers down the left and crosses the ball crisply for Bimbo Faolun Lanre, a Nigerian, to head Antwerp's first goal. Later, Higginbotham, the pioneer of young United reserves on loan, advances again from left back to round the goalkeeper and, with a shake of his hips, score the second and decisive goal. Antwerp, 2-1 winners, have stretched their victory roll to five games since Higginbotham joined the legion of eight nationalities on hire to this once-proud club.

Antwerp representatives will be at Old Trafford and The Cliff training ground this week to begin cherry-picking possibly three more United starters to help the club's push back to Belgian premier division football. Survival depends on it, a fact that is close to the heart of Eddy Wauters, 65, who played right back for the club at 15, played for his country and now, 50 years into his love affair with Antwerp, is a president who feels that he is invoking the oldest link in international football; Antwerp and the English.

The club was formed in 1880 by English students. They were in a foreign land and could not do without their football. Their missionary work spread our sport to this place, initially as Antwerp Football and Cricket Club. Maintaining the Englishness of the title is just one act of defiance, which is typical of Wauters. He is one of the leading bankers in Belgium and sits in a glasshouse, an executive box beyond any in the United Kingdom. It seats in heated comfort as many as 800 business-class supporters, each well-fed and watered and each in a red armchair. To either side, the Red Army Antwerp fanatics, looking as cold as icicles,

are chanting songs that are piped through to this executive glasshouse: little do they know that their president, who many of them blame for the club suffering relegation last season, is leaping up and down with every emotion that they feel.

At the far end of the ground, there is nothing, a black hole where the club attempted to demolish one of their creaking wooden stands and then ran out of money and ran out of faith with the mayor of Antwerp.

Photographs: Suzanne Hubbard

Wauters and his business associates are thus staring oblivion in the face. It is ironic that Belgium, the homeland of Jean-Marc Bosman, whose appeal to the European courts won freedom of contract for all players on the Continent, feels destroyed by the ramifications of his victory.

"I feel perhaps halfway to despair," Wauters said, "but we know this would happen. It will be the death of football unless clubs like ours can have the kind of cooperation which we are embarking on with Manchester United. You are sitting tonight in a country surrounded by four or five big foot-

ball nations, with open borders, with our best young players inevitably going abroad. We cannot cope.

"In England, for example, your clubs enjoy television rights that are 22 times what is available in Belgium and when our supporters say that Wauters has bought this bad player and that, I can only say, as a banker and as a football man, that, with our resources, sometimes those are the only players available to us. How can you buy a Rolls-Royce with BF1,000,000? If you have to, you buy a Volkswagen."

The "memorandum of corporation" between the world's most prosperous club and Antwerp is one of six that other Belgian clubs are seeking with their European neighbours. The game is contracting and such deals are the only thing between minor clubs and oblivion. The De Bosuil stadium was granted royal status by King Albert I in 1920 and it has still a caucus of committed supporters and a president determined to hold on to the safety rail of survival.

Wauters is not entirely loved or respected in his homeland. He was briefly jailed in 1984 after a bribery scandal that touched all of Belgium's leading clubs and yet, clinging to ethics that are English and, so many say, are outmoded, he insists that, as a respected banker, he cannot allow Antwerp to suc-



Higginbotham, right, the Manchester United reserve on loan to Royal Antwerp, celebrates his winning goal with his team-mates

cumb to more endemic corruption, and that he is pained at the club's plight.

"Bosman is the reason for our relegation," Wauters said, "but there were certain things that I wouldn't do to save our status." These include, he insists, rejecting offers from shadowy figures to "ar-

range" favourable results last season. They include, he says, rejecting the idea of paying journalists "something in an envelope" to turn blind eyes to things happening in the Belgian league — and Wauters is also president of the professional league. He says not a penny has been discussed between Antwerp

and Manchester United at the moment. The player-swapping agreement, first mooted between himself, Martin Edwards, Alex Ferguson and Maurice Watkins two years ago, is beneficial to both sides. It means coaches, as well as players, crossing the Channel; it means full access to the scouting system for which Belgians are renowned, a system that in the past has procured teenagers, sometimes as young as 15, from Africa and from Latin America.

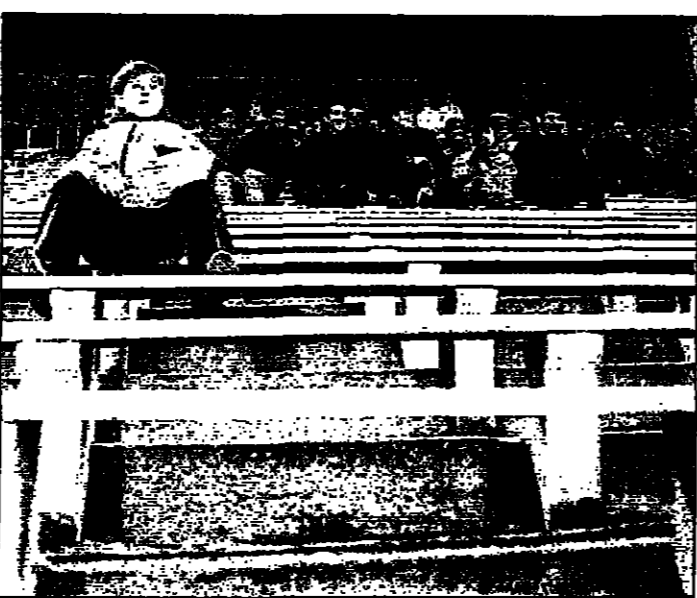
However, the assumption that United are seeking to circumvent British labour laws, to outwit the opposition of Fifa, the game's governing body, Uefa, the European football union, and the Professional Footballers' Association is, according to Antwerp, premature. Belgian laws have tightened against adolescent recruitment — yet, if an embryonic Ronaldo is spotted in Brazil, he could indeed be "parked" at Royal Antwerp, qualify for citizenship in two years and be transferred to United.

That is the future; apparently, journalists are ahead of the two participating clubs in seeing it. The present? Wauters would be happy indeed if the two-way process between his club and United can cut out the middle-man:

agents, he says, were the reason that he had to lose the nucleus of the team that played in the Cup Winners' Cup final at Wembley just five years ago. Four of that team — Rudy Smids, Francis Severeys, Hans-Peter Lehnhoff and Alex Czerniatynski — formed a clique with their manager to try to extort more money from the club; Wauters sold them.

He is called cantankerous and even more unpleasant things at home. He knows it and he said: "My office as president is open to anyone who can come and do a better job. Next year, I hope to complete my half-century with Royal Antwerp and my mission is to save the club, to turn it around. There are many against me, but that is why I stay."

He pays the entire complement of Antwerp players around £1.5 million, including bonuses, in a year. He hears that David Beckham received £8.5 million from all sources last year. "There you have it," Wauters said. "Some things that have come through football and through the imposition of the European Parliament, are not fair or manageable. They lack human intelligence."



Barely 3,000 supporters attend home matches in a stadium built for 60,000, but Wauters, right, is confident of better times ahead



TENNIS: ABSENCE OF BIG TWO CLEARS PATH TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Sapsford counts his blessings after claiming elusive title

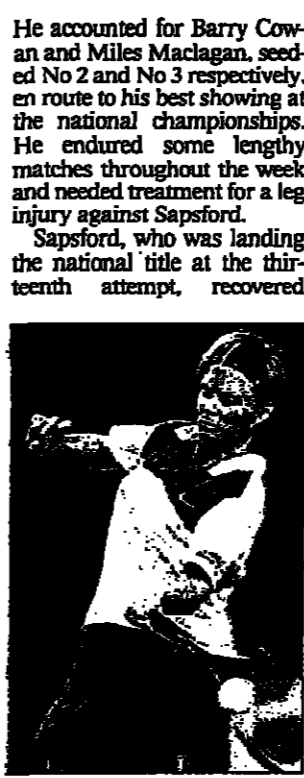
BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AN UNINSPIRING British national championships came to a close in Telford yesterday with precious few signs for optimism below the standard set by Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

Danny Sapsford, 29, will long remember his 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 triumph over Nick Weal in the men's singles final, which claimed his first triumph in this event. For British tennis, however, the victory of a near-veteran over Weal, himself a part-time player, demonstrated just how shallow is the pool of talent behind the trail-blazing duo.

Sapsford has effectively abandoned his singles career to concentrate on doubles, where lesser competition — allied to handsome pay-cheques for first-round losses on the ATP Tour — enable him to make a living. Sapsford said of the £9,000 that he banked at Telford: "I have had cheques of this size in the past, but they came at Wimbledon. There are not many jobs in which you can earn £9,000 in a week."

Weal, 25, has not played outside Great Britain this year.



Pullin: second triumph

He accounted for Barry Cowan and Miles MacLagan, seeded No 2 and No 3 respectively, en route to his best showing at the national championships.

He endured some lengthy matches throughout the week and needed treatment for a leg injury against Sapsford.

Sapsford, who was landing the national title at the thirtieth attempt, recovered from an early break in the deciding set to triumph after more than two hours of a struggle that both players were understandably anxious to win.

The absence of Henman and Rusedski prompted Sapsford to return from South America, where he was playing doubles on clay, to take his chance. It was to prove a popular victory, Sapsford having served British tennis in a supporting role for more than a decade.

The Surrey-based player, beaten in three sets by Henman in the semi-finals last year, had earlier accounted for the flush of youth in his semi-final on Saturday, when he ousted Mark Hilton, the national 18-and-under champion, 6-1, 6-2.

A wild-card entrant, Hilton, 17, threatened to write his own headlines before Sapsford stopped him in his tracks, thereby emphasising how much progress Hilton must make to figure on the world stage. Nevertheless, Hilton, from Cheshire, played his part in the dispersal of leading

seeds on the way to the semi-final.

The women's event produced the final envisaged by the seeding committee when Sam Smith met Julie Pullin on Saturday. However, the verdict went to Pullin, seeded No 2, who fended off five match points and a 5-1 deficit in the deciding set to prevail 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.

The fact that the contest was punctuated by 16 service breaks exposed the lack of quality in a match that sealed Pullin's second national championships victory in three years. At least the winner's resilience shone through.

Pullin, from Sussex, said that she was anxious to gauge her progress against that of Smith, whose world ranking rose to No 56 after a fruitful grass-court summer. Although Smith, 26, refused to cite a longstanding ankle injury for her defeat, British tennis aficionados must hope that the offending joint has been largely responsible for Smith's failure to win a single main-draw match on the WTA Tour since she reached the fourth round at Wimbledon in July.

ANOTHER tournament — another injury for Steffi Graf. Life on the tennis circuit is becoming frustratingly and painfully predictable. When she is fit, she can still beat anyone, but staying fit is becoming increasingly difficult. Playing Lindsay Davenport for a place in the final of the Chase Championships, she reached for a back-hand and suddenly felt a sharp pain in her right hamstring. As experienced in taking injury breaks as she is in winning titles, Graf knew that she was in trouble and, from there, the contest was effectively over. Davenport winning 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

On the long list of injuries that constitutes Graf's career, hamstrings do not feature large, but the last time it happened was also against Davenport and also in the third set of a semi-final, that time in Indian Wells in March. Then she was still in the early stages of her comeback and the frustration was plain to see. This time, in her twelfth tournament of the year and having forced her ranking back into the top ten with two consecutive titles leading

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

into this event, she was in a much better frame of mind.

It had not been a great match by any means. Winning in Leipzig and Philadelphia had taken more out of Graf than she had realised while Davenport was struggling to get her mind and her game working in unison. "I don't think the quality was very good," Graf said. "I really had difficulties getting myself involved in the match and we both committed a lot of unforced errors." As for the injury, she was resigned to another setback. "Sure it's disappointing, but there is nothing you can do about it, that's the way it is," she said.

It was a missed opportunity for Graf. After a miserable first set, she worked herself back into the match in the second and was beginning to take command in the third, but beating the No 1 player in the world on one leg was beyond even her capabilities. Graf has little time to recuper-

ate, with a heavy schedule of promotional work and exhibition matches planned in the coming weeks. That leaves little time to prepare for the start of the new season in January and, just to add insult to injury, thinking she had no chance to qualify for this event, she had booked a holiday in the Caribbean for this week and has had to miss that as well.

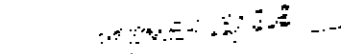
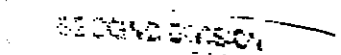
Davenport, too, is not the fittest of contenders going into the final. She has blisters on both feet and, playing in the doubles final on Saturday, had to have treatment for an injury to her racket arm. That was just the news that Martina Hingis was hoping for. She was not playing well against Irina Spirlea in the other semi final, but was relieved when Spirlea managed to play even worse and let her off the hook in the second set. Hingis going through 6-2, 7-6. There has not been much this year that has focused Hingis's attention, but the thought of proving a point to Davenport, who swiped her No 1 ranking last month, may just do the trick.

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Romania display shows up Irish failings

RUGBY UNION: ITALY UNDERLINE RAPID RATE OF PROGRESS WITH DEFIANT WORLD CUP DISPLAY

England grateful for Greenwood

England 23 Italy 15

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NEVER mind Australia and South Africa. England's first priority is to make sure that they are kings of the northern roost and, in Huddersfield yesterday, Italy tested that ambition to the full.

With ten minutes still to play, the Italian cavalry were thrusting lance after lance into the English defence and the goal-kicking of Diego Dominguez had carried them to within a point of their shaken opponents. England may

POOL TWO

Table with 7 columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows for England, Italy, Netherlands.

claim that their defence held firm when all else was crumbling, but they were fortunate indeed that Didier Mené, the French referee, was unsighted when Alessandro Troncon appeared to reach over the line as Italy hammered away after the interval.

That Italy, who now go into a draw to discover in which pool they will play in the finals next season, came to Huddersfield without so many of their experienced players mattered little. They sustained a level of performance that disrupted England from the moment a running maul carried them 20 metres from the kick-off.

Twice, the powerful Cristian Stoica found his way past Will Greenwood and it will have been a bitter pill for him that it was Greenwood, with what is fast becoming a trademark chip and catch, who scored the try with two minutes remaining that made England safe.

The England management felt that the Italians stopped the development of a fluid game by killing second-phase possession. As the Australians showed 24 hours earlier, however, the senior sides are just as adept at slowing games down. If Italy conceded 25 penalties, they also accumulated 18 and ran from many of them.

Grayson, having missed his opening effort, gave England



Luger, who scored the first England try just before half-time, tries to evade a tackle by Roselli at the McAlpine Stadium yesterday

the comfort of a six-point start from two penalty goals, but it was after Dominguez had halved the margin that the first of England's basic errors crept in, the forwards running in front of the restart. More followed. Healey and Perry kicking dead outside the 22, needless off-sides and a flurry of punching between the front rows that earned Moscardi a yellow card.

At least England ended the half well: Garforth and Clarke went close, Luger was held in the left-hand corner and, for the only time in the match, their scrum worked so well that they turned over Italy's scrum ball. Five metres from the line, Corry and Clarke combined and an inside pass by Grayson gave Luger the game's first try.

England endured a torrid ten minutes at the start of the second half, when Troncon went so close. Yet the injustice of his effort being ruled out inspired Italy to even greater efforts. Perry brought down Pini with a try-saving tackle

and Italy threw away an overlap on the right. Instead, Dominguez chipped away at the lead, with two penalties and a dropped goal from a ruck established after Dawson had missed touch.

When Dominguez's fourth penalty found its target, it was a measure of England's frustra-

tion that they won a penalty of their own from the restart, only for it to be reversed for stamping. That offence accounted for much of Clive Woodward's frustration, since the England coach knows that legitimate rucking must be recognised if the game is to be the spectacle he desires.

Their one coherent piece of play brought England comfort: Rodber, having replaced Archer, won the lineout and was there to combine with Corry to open up the defence. As Christofoletto stretched to fill the hole, Greenwood's kick wafted gently past him and the tall centre gathered the

ball for the score near the posts.

"We are disappointed, but I know the English team is one of the best in the world," Massimo Giovanelli, the captain, said. "They are better than us - though maybe not this afternoon."

SCORERS: England: Try: Luger (40), Greenwood (78). Conversions: Grayson 2. Penalty goals: Grayson 3 (7, 11, 22). Italy: Penalty goals: Dominguez 4 (25, 35, 58, 70). Dropped goal: Dominguez (82).

ENGLAND: M P Perry (Capt), D D Luger (Captain), W J H Greenwood (Lock), J C Garforth (Fly), A S Healey (Hooker), P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton), J Lawrence (Leicester), R Coochill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), G C Rowland, Leicester, S Mino, M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Newcastle), M E Corry (Leicester).

ITALY: Pini (Richardson), F Rossi (Roma), C Stoica (Napoli), M Dallari (Napoli), L Martin (Bologna), D Dominguez (Stado Francès), A Troncon (Tosca), M Cristofolito (Napoli), A Castellani (Roma), A Moscardi (Tosca), D de Chiffi (Tosca), C Christofoletto (Napoli), M Giovanelli (Napoli), M Bergamasco (Napoli), G Arnedo, Treviso, B C Calore (L'Aquila).

Reference: D Mené (France)



Bergamasco tries to thwart a dashing advance by Corry. Photograph: Dan Chung

Late sting swells Wasps' chances

Wasps 32 Manchester Sale 19

By MARK BALDWIN

THE power of positive thinking pushed Wasps into third place in the congested Allied Dunbar Premiership title race last night after a rugged, raw-boned victory against Sale.

Wasps, 12-3 down after almost half an hour and struggling for cohesion, finally won the day with three tries in the final quarter. It was a triumph of character and a true reflection of the attitude of Nigel Melville, their director of rugby. The former England captain spoke beforehand of the importance, on international weekends, to approach league matches with any negativity concerning absent players firmly out of mind.

Melville even had a dig at Richmond, Wasps' London rivals, who postponed their match against Harlequins last week. "It was a credit to Leicester that they honoured the Mayfair Agreement last weekend whilst others chose to duck and dive," he said.

Sale ran out to the Benny Hill theme music, but there was nothing remotely comical about the way that they took control of the early stages. Alex King missed two penalties either side of his fourteenth-minute success, but Steve Davidson, the Sale centre, was right on top of his game with two tries and a conversion. Wasps, however, shook off their self-imposed chains when Shane Rossier scored in the 29th minute and, by half-time, had edged ahead through King's dropped goal.

The powerful Chris Yates restored the Sale lead, but now the Wasps forwards took an iron grip. Once again, accentuating the positive when it would have been easy to have grown frustrated, Wasps finally scored through Eben Rollitt, the flanker, after four successive penalties were chipped into the corner to set up line-outs and rolling mauls. Sale's strength and spirit had clearly been sapped and further tries for Weedon and Leota sealed matters.

SCORERS: Wasps: Try: Rossier (29min), Rollitt (62), Weedon (67), Leota (75). Conversions: King 3. Penalty goals: King (14min). Dropped goal: King (53). Sale: Try: Davidson (28, 37), Yates (50). Conversions: Davidson 2.

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 0-5, 3-5, 3-12, 10-12, 13-12, 13-19, 20-19, 27-19, 29-19.

WASPS: J Lewsey, S Rossier (cap), P Sampson, 41min, N Greenstock, R Henderson, L Scarle, A King, A Cornwell (cap), M Friday, S A Black (cap), D Moly, 55, T Lutz, V Green (cap), D Macey, 76, M Weedon, S Shaw, E Hogg, J Worralley (cap), P Rossier (57), P Vohaly.

Reference: P O'Brien (New Zealand)

Scottish increase West's problems

West Hartlepool 7 London Scottish 37

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER this defeat, their eleventh in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, West Hartlepool are in such bad shape that salvage from their plight is probably already beyond them.

West last won in the top flight in January 1997. Yesterday was their 67th loss in 80 first division matches - and, in many respects, it was their worst. After surrendering so lamely at home to the side a place above them at the bottom of the first division, it is hard to see them winning at all before next May.

Back in April, West beat London Scottish to secure promotion. While the Exiles, with three wins, are eking out some sort of existence in the first division, the Teessiders are now totally without confidence.

In the last ten minutes, in which West's ball retention went from bad to deplorable, two of the Scottish back row, Hunter and Penn, with three tries between them, emphasised their area of dominance. Mike Brewer, the West player-coach, nursing a groin injury, could only watch in despair as his charges fell apart. The cavalry is coming, apparently, but the cause would seem to be lost.

As well as backpedalling at the scrum, Cullinane struggled in the wind, with his throwing to the lineout. With no real platform to work on, West relied on scraps of possession and heavy penalty count in their favour. Had the Exiles not given away nine penalties in the first half, they would have enjoyed a more comfortable lead than 18-7 at the interval after tries on a platter for Forrest and Easterby.

A quick try in reply by Lough stemmed the tide until the late onslaught, but at no point did West look like troubling Scottish. They were not helped by Saller, their one effective forward, going off at half-time, nor two second-half penalty misses by Vile, before Penn took the game by the neck with a fine solo try and Hunter followed him over.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Try: Lough (15min) Conversion: Vile. London Scottish: Try: Saller (45). Conversion: Saller (45). Penalty goals: Saller 2 (78, 84), Forrest (6), Easterby (13), Penn (68). Conversions: De Beer 3. Penalty goals: De Beer 2 (6, 26). SCORING SEQUENCE (West Hartlepool first): 0-3, 0-8, 0-15, 7-18 (half-time), 7-25, 7-30, 7-37.

Reference: S Lander (Liverpool)

Gloucester forget to shut gate

Gloucester 28 Saracens 27

By STEVE FLEMING

THE curse of "second-half syndrome" almost undid Gloucester's first-half efforts in this enthralling Allied Dunbar Premiership match at Kingsholm. Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, is anxious to put an end to his side's alarming tendency to idle once in front. He has good reason, too, after the erosion of his team's 25-6 interval lead. "We almost threw away a 22-0 half-time lead at Bedford two weeks ago and now this," Hill said.

With Saracens missing nine first-choice players through injury, suspension and international duty, Gloucester

started at a furious pace and could even afford the luxury of keeping Sims, Bento and Mapletoft, three England internationals, on the bench.

Richard Tombs, the Gloucester captain, demonstrated the benefit of some midweek sprint training with two well-worked tries and made the break that set up another for Terry Fanotua. When Saracens lost Alain Penaud, their fly half, after half an hour with a thigh strain, their fate appeared to be sealed.

However, a combination of Gloucester resting on their laurels and greater application from the Saracens forwards enabled the visiting team to get back in contention in the second half. Tries for Kevin Sorrell, the centre, and Phil Ogilvie, the No 8, got

them to within five points of Gloucester, but a Simon Mannix penalty goal, with eight minutes remaining, kept Saracens two scores adrift.

Steve Ravenscroft crossed in the sixth minute of injury.



Tombs: two tries

time to once again reduce the deficit, but, to the relief of the Kingsholm crowd, Gavin Johnson's conversion proved to be the last act of the game.

Mark Evans, the Saracens director of rugby, said: "We should have won, but left ourselves too much to do after giving away some very soft tries."

Reference: E Morrison (Bristol)

Quins find their ruthless edge

Harlequins 43 Bath 31

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

UNBEATEN at home, six league wins in succession, only a second victory over Bath in 16 league attempts... this is not what Harlequins rugby is supposed to be about. Yet the ruthless All-Black edge now coursing through the veins of the men in multi-coloured shirts has carried the Allied Dunbar Premiership's perennial underachievers to within two points of the top of the table. With games to come against London Irish, London Scottish and Sale, who is to say they will not reach the summit by the turn of the year?

The influence of Zinzan Brooke, the player-coach, and John Schuster, a goal-kicking machine at inside centre, is remarkable. They knew what it took to sit on top of the world with New Zealand and that mentality is filtering through. Schuster scored 26 points on Saturday, adding two tries to an almost flawless kicking display. Brooke played a pivotal role in the second and third Quins tries, linking between forwards and backs to set up Jason Keyter, then providing the scoring pass for Schuster on the stroke of half-time.

The point is that where once Harlequins played pretty rugby by while squandering scoring opportunities, they now take those chances unequivocally.

Bath have come closer than most to emulating the All Blacks through their domination of the domestic game in the past two decades. They lost

Jon Preston, their new fly half, with an Achilles injury, and Nigel Redman, with damaged ribs, but showed typical tenacity to get back from 31-9 to 38-31 with two minutes to go.

Their failure to retain possession brought Bath a third successive league defeat and kept them from a return to the top of the table. More significantly, the ruthlessness that was once their trademark has been copied for distribution to some most unlikely places.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Try: Keyter 2 (10min, 88), Schuster 2 (40, 46), Morgan (8), Conversions: Schuster 2. Penalty goals: Schuster 4 (7, 11, 17, 38). Bath: Try: Hogan (48), Macey (64), Bathshaw (78). Conversions: Cullum 2. Penalty goals: Preston (14), Cullum 3 (23, 40, 54). SCORING SEQUENCE (Harlequins first): 3-0, 6-0, 9-3, 9-3, 14-3, 14-3, 17-3, 24-9 (half-time), 31-9, 31-14, 31-17, 38-17, 38-24, 38-31, 43-31.

Reference: B Carriswell (Yorkshire)



Schuster: flawless

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BASKETBALL

McCord takes deserved break

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

OF ALL the American players flying home this week, while the best Englishmen concentrate on their international programme in the European qualifying round, none surely deserves his mid-season break more than John McCord.

McCord's latest contribution to the successes of Thames Valley Tigers in league and cup was 29 points in the 90-80 Budweiser League victory over Birmingham Bulls in the National Exhibition Centre on Saturday, when the visitors avenged a recent controversial defeat.

The fortnight's rest will give the 26-year-old New Yorker a chance to recover from a painful knee injury that would have halted most players in their tracks. He had suffered the knock originally while helping the Tigers to overcome Manchester Giants in the National Cup last Wednesday.

Three days later, with the Tigers in the process of completing an impressive recovery in the NEC, McCord went crashing to the floor as he chased a rebound. He was led off for treatment, but 90sec later, he returned, to the astonishment of the crowd. "There was no way I wasn't going to get back on," he said.

From 17 points down at half-time, the Tigers swiftly made up the arrears, reducing Nigel Lloyd, their former player, to an also-ran in the back court. Earlier, the Barbadian had threatened to win the match on his own, but when McCord and Jason Seaman started to seize the rebounds, the game was transformed.

Elsewhere, the action revolved around the group games of the uni-ball trophy. Two of the games went to overtime, London Towers eventually accounting for Newcastle Eagles 86-82, despite 33 points from Ralph Blakelock for the Eagles. Manchester Giants, the Budweiser League leaders, were surprisingly taken to two periods of overtime by Worthing Bears, who eventually succumbed 136-123. John White accumulated 47 points for the Giants and Tony Holley 42.

Net gains made at anglers' expense

Brian Clarke explains why new measures aimed at protecting the Atlantic salmon have caused widespread alarm and anger

Reports published after the Environment Agency (EA) announcement last week of measures designed to help save the Atlantic salmon focused almost exclusively on the fact that anglers will, from next year, be limited in the numbers of fish they can take. In doing so, they revealed less than half the story.

The steps that the EA proposed on behalf of its political master, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), will dictate not only what anglers can take and when, but how. They reinforce yet again the perception that it is expediency that tops the MAFF agenda, not conservation.

They also underscore a long-running inequity between the treatment of tens of thousands of salmon anglers, who spend large sums on the fish's welfare, and that afforded to commercial netmen, who contribute nothing yet take the bulk of the catch.

The measures that were announced and that are expected to come into effect in England and Wales next spring, are: a delay in the commercial netting season for salmon until June 1; a mandatory policy of catch-and-release for anglers until June 16; a restriction on angling methods to fly-fishing and spinning only until June 16; a restriction on hook sizes that effectively bans anything greater than size 6; and a ban on the use of hooks with barbs. All the provisions are aimed at protecting the most threatened fish, the big fish that return to rivers in the spring, after two or more winters at sea.

There are some qualifications. There are exclusion clauses to cover some netting stations that take sea trout as well as salmon. A restriction on the size of hooks used in artificial lures will be delayed until 2000. A few measures will present problems of enforcement.

Though the principles behind the steps will be accepted by many anglers, there will be opposition from some, not least those who feel that voluntary controls are the only way forward. One aspect of the proposals, however, will inflame everyone in the sport: the decision to lift restrictions on nets two weeks before those imposed on rods.

What the EA's announcement did not make clear was the significance of the first two weeks in June for the fish. Catch-rates rise steadily towards

summer. A ban on netting for the five months to June 1 will, records suggest, cut the salmon catch in England and Wales by more than 3,100 fish a year. Restrictions to June 16 would have cut the nets' toll by 6,400. In other words, in the two weeks extra granted to nets over rods, 3,300 fish will be killed — significantly more than the 2,000-odd fish that would be saved by all the restrictions that it is proposed to place on angling for 5½ months.

The view that anglers should accept restrictions for half the year to offset the fish that netmen will slaughter with MAFF approval in a fortnight is already raising anger. The Salmon and Trout Association, the game anglers' lobby group, has said that it will fight the proposals unless greater equity is introduced.

There is another point that is angering rod fishermen. These proposals are being presented as though they represent prompt action by MAFF in response to a crisis suddenly identified. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact that there is a crisis in salmon stocks has been known for the whole of this decade. The alarm has been so great that anglers all around the North Atlantic have been raising money year on year to pay at least some netmen not to put to sea. Individual fisheries and anglers have agreed voluntary catch-and-release codes.

Throughout it all, action has been urged in MAFF from within the United Kingdom and on successive British administrations by governments overseas, without any meaningful response. For years, Great Britain and Ireland have been the only countries with North Atlantic salmon fisheries to allow indiscriminate netting around their coasts. Last year, even the Irish took action.

It was not until June this year, when the inter-governmental North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation urged all countries to manage salmon stocks "with extreme caution", that MAFF acted — and that was because the European Union, which represented the United Kingdom along with other members, agreed to see what additional measures could be brought in to slow the collapse. The reality of the announcement last week is not that a crisis has suddenly appeared; it is that Britain has been pressured and shamed into action.

There is one aspect that will inflame everyone'



The rod fisherman, having coped with falling salmon stocks for years, is being hit hard by new proposals

BOXING

Woodhall offers target for Starie

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DAVID STARIE has his sights on challenging for a world championship after two more contests. In his sights is opponent is Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion.

After his eleventh-round stoppage victory over Ali Forbes on Saturday, when Starie regained the British super-middleweight title to add to his Commonwealth belt, Gordon Holmes, his manager, said that he expected his man to box in a big event late next year.

Holmes added that, after winning the Lonsdale Belt outright with one more defence of the British title and then a second defence of his Commonwealth title, he would be seeking a world crown.

While Holmes was even prepared to challenge Joe Calzaghe, the World Boxing Organisation title-holder and arguably the best super-middleweight in the world, the most likely opponent was Woodhall, who is more suited to Starie's style.

Even if Forbes was not the most difficult of opponents, the manner of Starie's victory was impressive. The double champion lifted the pace in the later stages and Forbes, who is 37, began to tire. A combination of punches proved to be too much for the older man, who dropped to the canvas and Roy Francis, the referee, stepped in to call a halt.

Stephen Smith, of Camden Town, won a hard contest at lightweight against Anthony Maynard, of Birmingham, and now wants to challenge Billy Scherer for the European title. However, as Scherer is expected to vacate the title after a defence early next year, Smith's most likely opponent is Bobby Vanzie, the British champion, from Bradford.

Philip Ndou, the South African featherweight, of whom great things are expected, suffered his first defeat in 11 contests when he was counted out in the third round against Anthony Campbell, Campbell, a light-welterweight, was a late substitute for Dean Phillips.

SAILING: MACARTHUR'S HAND-CRAFT BOOSTS HER CHANCES OF A TOP-FIVE FINISH

Kingfisher spreads her wings

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

A WEEKEND of drama in the Route du Rhum Race has left Ellen MacArthur, of Great Britain, in Kingfisher, in a strong position to claim fifth place overall in the monohull fleet as she begins the last thousand miles to the finish at Guadeloupe.

The leading monohulls were enjoying powerful downwind conditions on Saturday with even Kingfisher, the lone Open 50 amongst the 60s, managing to average around 14 knots. However, the conditions got the better of Catherine Chabaud, of France, whose excellent first race in her brand new 60, Whirlpool Europe 2, came to an abrupt end when her rig failed.

Chabaud's mast broke at the third spreader as she was holding third place, behind Jean Luc van den Heede, in Aligimonis, in second place, and Thomas Cuville, in Aquitaine Innovations, in the lead.



MacArthur: working hard

Chabaud managed to secure the rig and sails, but was forced to retire from the race. The next incident was almost a total disaster for Cuville, who had been maintaining a blistering pace, when Aquitaine Innovations suddenly stopped dead in her tracks with something wrapped around the keel. Cuville tried to free it by reversing the boat, but eventually decided to get in the water. In the process, the Frenchman cut his hand badly and only just managed to get back on by grabbing the transom as Aquitaine Innovations accelerated away under bare poles.

MacArthur, meanwhile, has had a relatively easy time. She has managed to move the broken swing keel slightly to give the boat better balance and was setting the pace for long periods, when Kingfisher was the fastest monohull in the fleet. While Chabaud's retirement promotes her to fifth, MacArthur has also reduced her deficit on the next boat ahead, Jean Maurel's 60, Marson Cote Ouest/Aigle, which was 70 miles in front two days ago but now leads by just 20 miles. MacArthur's nearest rival in Class 2 is now almost 300 miles astern of Kingfisher, nearly double the distance that separated the two boats for most of last week.

In a despatch yesterday, she described how she managed to alter the angle of the canting keel without the use of the hydraulic system, which normally works it from one side of the boat to the other. "I decided that if I could get the keel in the middle, then I could work it to get it to one side," she said. "It is a complicated and delicate procedure of moving the keel one degree at a time and draining off the 'back fluid' into a container, then replacing it in the reservoir. Four hours later, I now have a keel which is very much 'canted', only halfway, but enough to make a world of difference to Kingfisher's motion."

HOCKEY: CANTERBURY HIT TOP SPOT AS IPSWICH OVERCOME THE CHAMPIONS

Winning formula sinks Southgate Slough struggle to unfamiliar defeat

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

By CATHY HARRIS

CANNOCK broke Southgate's winning sequence by defeating them 2-0 at home yesterday in the National League premier division. By the time that Southgate had beaten Brooklands 3-2 on Saturday, they had extended their run of victories to six, but they were soon halted in their tracks.

"The key factor in our success was the pace we set," Martin Gillbody, the Cannock manager, said. "Added to that was our dexterity in parting with the ball at the right time."

The match was only nine minutes old when Crutehley scored from Takher's cross-pass and he added the second goal 15 minutes later.

Southgate counter-attacked vigorously, but could not find their rhythm and the five-minute suspension of Simons did not help. At the start of the second half, Southgate forced two short corners, but Wil-

liams, their full back, could not undermine the confidence of Lewis in goal. After that, it was merely a matter of Cannock holding on.

Canterbury's 4-1 victory over Reading took them to the top of the table. Cannock slotting into third behind Southgate. It was a disappointing weekend for Reading, who drew 2-2 on Saturday against Boston after Kaganan converted a late short corner.

Scott Smith scored four goals on Saturday for Old Loughtonians in a 6-3 home win over Guildford. Thompson and Ingram adding the remaining goals. Guildford responded with a goal by Savage and two from Hall.

On the same day, East Grinstead earned their first points of the season by defeating Telford 6-4, with Cabay and Cullins each scoring twice for the winning side.

VICKI SANDALL, the Ipswich forward, scored a goal in each half to inspire her team to a 2-1 victory over Slough and inflict upon the champions their first defeat in the women's National League premier division for 20 months.

In a season in which the play-off system has been introduced for the top four clubs, Slough's setback may not be crucial in the long run, but Sue Chandler, their captain, admitted that the unbeaten leaders deserved their triumph in a physical contest.

Sandall, 23, is benefiting not only from the coaching of Nick Thompson at Ipswich, but also a recent call-up to a regional academy. She says that Thompson has instilled confidence in her play and that she is committed to extra training to earn a place in the England team.

After a move initiated by Michelle Pleasance and Lucy Youngs, Sandall unleashed a shot high into the net a minute before the break. She gave Ipswich a 2-0 lead three minutes after the restart, cracking in a pass from Tracy Fry.

On a day on which all the home sides won, two goals from Tina Cullen, the England striker, steered Hightown to their first win when they beat Sutton Coldfield. Doncaster also earned their first victory, thanks to Claire Ferguson's goal, against Leicester.

Late goals by Tracy Williams and Lynn Bollington steered Chelmsford to a 2-1 win over Aldridge, while Joanne Murphy scored in the final minute for Woking against Sherwood, to extend their 100 per cent record at the head of the second division.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Clutch has different meaning in Swaugh-Healy

Alan Border called it tucker. Americans call those who have it clutch players. Henry V called it stomach for the fight. Either way, it is perhaps the crucial issue in sport. That is to say, the relationship between ability and results. Sport is a complex, shifting and highly-public examination of different manifestations of courage.

Watching the first night's play between England and Australia, the first exchanges of an Ashes series being particularly fraught with meaning, I watched the splendid start made by England. And I wrote in my notebook as I watched — and long before the pair actually came together to

bat — the words Swaugh/Healy. Swaugh being Steve Swaugh, Healy being Ian. There was something about the situation that was absolutely made for them. I claim no exceptional perceptiveness for this: every English person who has watched an England v Australia Test match in recent years will have felt the same thing. Healy may not be the best batsman, but he is tremendously long on tucker, or heart, or stomach for the fight. He is a clutch player. As for Swaugh, in the clutch he is a nonpareil.

He inspires admiration rather than affection in non-Australians. Seeing him get out is one of the great pleasures of cricket: something to do with



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

each other. Mark Nicholas, who heads the Sky team and will soon be leading the lads out when Test cricket goes to Channel Four, has a knack of hitting cricketers' nerves on the radio. It was, he told, the sixth century partnership between these two. "And you can bet," he said, "they have all been in important situations." The Swaugh-Healy rating for combined courage is off the

scale. If it was predictable that these two would turn England's good start into a potential winning position for Australia, it was equally inevitable that one of the Australian bowlers would play the innings of his life. There is a terrible lack of steel about England cricket teams, a desperate lack of corporate ticker. Damien Fleming, 71. It is worse, watching such an in-

pression for a blow on the head — he was clearly in no shape to play Test cricket. His inclusion summed up everything that is wrong about English cricket: reliance on hope.

It was a test of tucker, and Butcher looked foredoomed to fail. But no. He passed it with something to spare. His first hit — a square-cut complete with delicate feathering of the blade — sang like the shot of a man in the form of his life.

It was an astonishing effort, alight with self-certainty. It was not like watching English cricket: it was, especially, not like watching England batting against Australia. Cricket people will doubtless tell us what a good wicket it was to bat on: well, I know all about good

wickets. Experts talk about a wicket being "two-paced". England always play on one of those against Australia: a gorgeous batting track when Australia bat; a lethal snakepit when Australia bowl.

This routine transformation seemed inevitable after the efforts of the two clutch players among the Australia batsmen and Fleming's ritual dancing on the grave. It seemed doubly so after Atherton went.

And it didn't happen. England found a clutch player who wasn't Atherton. Wonderful: the follow-on avoided as if it were nothing to worry a serious cricket team. One restart does not make a winter, but Butcher will remember the deeds he did that day.

'It seemed only a matter of time before the ref performed the handshakes for Y-M-C-A'

Players offer no more than vain gestures

It is quite natural, I should think, that a stranger to the rules of rugby should turn to the referee for enlightenment. The match between England and Italy at Huddersfield yesterday was baffling enough in concept anyway, since despite being a "qualification" game, it didn't seem to matter much who won it.

"It is a World Cup qualifier," people kept telling me and I thought: "Well, I went to one of those in Rome. Similarly England v Italy. Cracking match. It had been charges and was the most dramatic night of football I have ever seen." Lots at stake at Huddersfield, then, I supposed. Paul Ince had been covered in blood. "Oh no, not really," was the baffling reply. Both England and Italy would definitely be in the 1999 rugby union World Cup, whatever the outcome. Luckily for us, as it turned out, England would qualify however abysmally they played, too.

might expect a few Italian supporters to turn up. Industrial West Yorkshire is not famous for its Latin quarters and I suspected a conspiracy to rig the crowd. Yet, despite a 100 per cent England support, this game flowed like a tray of porridge. There were 47 penalties. The ball was dropped a lot and badly passed and there was no England try until the 42nd minute. "Boonch of amateurs!" was shouted from the crowd. And every time I looked at the ref for explanation he was miming "Oops I dropped my tray" or "Sit and leave for five

shameful presupposition that they would be somewhat unmanly on the pitch, all twinkle toes and chestnut locks and wisp waist. Instead of which they rolled out heavy and solid on to the pitch leaving caterpillar tracks.

Not having a lot of games to compare it with, I would cheerfully assess this as the worst I've seen, because seasoned rugby chaps told me it was the worst that they had seen as well. Not enough running; that was my specific complaint. The running bits are the joy of rugby; the scrums and penalties and heaps of chaps clambering over each other like frogs in a jar — those bits are less engaging, especially when you don't know why the referee is miming "Mine's a large one" or "Land on this aircraft carrier in your own time". There were just two or three moments when a bit of running looked a possibility and I can't tell you how the spirit rose.

The crowd didn't know what to make of it. "Swing low, sweet oh what's the use," faltered the singing. A Mexican wave started and stopped abruptly, inaugurating a tradition that can be called the Mexican Lap. I hate to sound bitter, but oh, I can't help it — I was supposed to be going to Aston Villa this weekend. Instead of which I heard it on the car radio as I drove north. "What a fabulous match!" Alan Green yelled. "I can't remember a more exciting match in the Premiership. This is a match with everything!" I sniffed bravely and ignored the turn-off for Birmingham. A private grief, I know, but sometimes it helps to share.

One or two points about rugby did occur to me. First, there are far too many players on the field at one time, meaning that they can't get past each other. Could this be looked into? Second, why does the same chap always take the penalty goals and conversions? Is it fair. Poor Paul Grayson does it every time and seems never to offer the chance to his team-mates. I hate to criticise, but it is beginning to look very selfish. Paul, Third, if, during lineouts, the player must be shouldered high to

LYNNE TRUSS



minutes while you get on with the filling".

"We did a lot of basic things wrong," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said afterwards. "We won because we were lucky. The Italians played well." He said they hadn't underestimated the Italians — although such a mistake might have been forgivable, I thought. If one's natural reaction on hearing that England are playing Italy at football is to crouch and whimper in a foetal position, the same countries playing rugby make one expand one's proud Anglo-Saxon chest and laugh. Even knowing that Italy was the sixth nation in the new Six Nations Championship did not shift my



Greenwood, the England centre, takes on Dominguez at Huddersfield yesterday in a running move that gladdened the heart

make the catch, why not throw the ball lower? The danger of neck injury to the hoisting players could thus be automatically eradicated.

As it was, I saw a lot of kicked goals, which are presumably quite difficult. What was missing at the otherwise splendid McAlpine Stadium was the little motorised

buggy I saw on television delivering the tee. Given the number of such goal kicks yesterday, I would have enjoyed that buggie, so I do urge them to get one. Anything that could add enjoyment to a dire performance like yesterday's would be extremely welcome, even if it is

only tough-tough-toys for tough-tough-boys.

Before the next match, I must study the rules a bit. Meanwhile, it is pleasant to imagine Mr Mené getting home after a day officiating at an international. Good game, dear? Madame Mené asks. He mimes digging a hole and

jumping into it. "That man," she says, sympathetically. He strokes a finger across his throat and rolls his eyes. "Large one, dear?" she asks at last. And he makes the internationally recognised gesture for pouring an extremely large drink down one's neck and falling on the settee.

New pitch gives arena polo fresh dimension

By JOHN WATSON

ARENA Polo, played in a tight, indoor compound, has been in vogue in Great Britain for many years. But last weekend it took on a new dimension. Peter Grace, the well-known New Zealand international coach — and perhaps even more famous as the father of four polo-playing girls — has opened an open-air, all-weather arena at his Ascot Park Club near Windlesham in Surrey. Copied from an

American design, it is the first of its kind in this country and its opening on Saturday was marked with a series of exhibition matches.

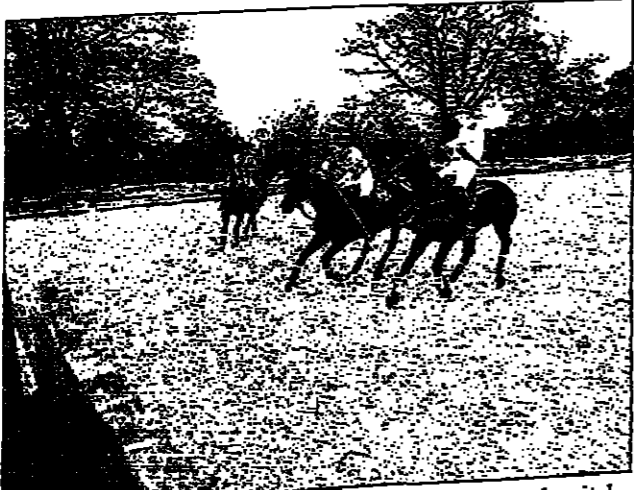
The beauty of Grace's enclosed 100-metre by 50-metre ground is that it affords more room in three-a-side encounters for pony manoeuvre and open team-play than players are accustomed to in conven-

tional indoor arena polo. The ground, which has an elaborate drainage system, is made of silica sand and composite recycled fibres, bonded together with vaseline. As well as being an all-weather stadium, the floor is gentle on ponies' legs. Holders of field polo handicaps add an extra one for purposes of the arena game.

The highlight of the matches was a three-a-side four-chukka duel staged between a New Zealand team aggregating 19 goals on handicap and a 21-handicap Great Britain trio.

John Horswell, who has his own indoor arena at Epsom, is a master of the game. Playing back for Britain, he sent a stream of passes up to his forwards, Peter Webb and Chris Hyde, so that his side were 9-6 up by half-time. New Zealand — made up of James McLevey, the New Zealand No 1, Tony Keyte and Nacho Gonzalez — enjoyed a good sized chukka, by the close of which they had narrowed Britain's lead to 12-11, but Britain eventually prevailed 17-16.

GREAT BRITAIN: 1 P Webb (6), 2 C Hyde (3), 3 J Horswell (7). NEW ZEALAND: 1 J McLevey (4), 2 T Keyte (6), 3 N Gonzalez (9).



Players and ponies try out the new Ascot Park polo pitch

SPORTS LETTERS

Twin towers sentimentality

From Mr John Mason
Sir, How refreshing to read the truth about Wembley Stadium. Over the years, football fans have endured the "facilities" accurately described by Robert Elms (November 14). We all know why they have done it. It is, for many, a rare chance to see their team play in a Cup Final and they would go to any lengths to be there.

However, win or lose, one never forgets the disgusting environment, poor view and the long delays on the way to and from the ground. There is nothing at all worth preserving at the current stadium, not even the Twin Towers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MASON,
19 Victoria Drive,
Gilberdyke, Brough,
East Yorkshire HU15 2SD.

Dean mauled
From Mr Robert Carter
Sir, I had to have a wry chuckle when I read the report of the Wasps v Leicester game (November 16), in particular Dean Richards's mention of "Wasps' only tactic", this being the driving maul from a lineout. Com-

Barriers to watching county cricket in 1999

From Mr Matthew Hewitt

Sir, I noted with interest the county championship fixtures for next season, printed today (November 19) in your newspaper. As you state, "Innovations mark new season", the greatest of which (and the least noted) is the trend for starting county matches on a Wednesday.

At Surrey, where I am a member, only eight of 36 days at home in the championship are at the weekend, and six of these rely upon matches going into the fourth day. In the National League, seven out of the eight fixtures are on Sundays or are day/night (which are again being held in September, when it will be nice and cold).

With other fixtures, the weekend tally reaches 34 per cent overall, with the NatWest Trophy be-

ing weekend-based only in the last two rounds. Anyone looking for a reason that the attendance at county championship matches is so low need look no further. Until they begin on Fridays and give a good chance that there will be a full weekend's play, there is no chance that they will increase.

Whoever put these fixtures together has done so with no regard to those who work and who want to watch county championship cricket. The result of this will be ever-decreasing attendance, as people who wish to get into the habit of attending cricket are unable to do.

Yours with an increasing sense of frustration,
MATTHEW HEWITT,
90, Denmark Road, Carshalton,
Surrey SM5 2JW.

Hemery choice

From Mr Peter McLennan

Sir, Your article on David Hemery (November 18) over-looks his success as head coach of the Track and Field teams at Boston University, Massachusetts in the 1970s and 1980s. As a former student captain at the University of Connecticut (one of his local rivals), I can suggest that he excelled in this area as well. Both the individuals and teams under his supervision were successful at the local, regional

and national levels and Hemery won the 1968 outdoor NCAA 400 metres title prior to his Olympic world-record run in that year.

While your article indicated that he had been chosen as a "safe pair of hands", I would suggest that this underestimates his proven qualities as a successful performer at all levels of athletics. Surely that is what British athletics clubs have recognised by his appointment.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MCLENNAN,
p.mclennan@ucl.ac.uk

This week in THE TIMES



■ **TOMORROW:** Tim Henman prepares for his huge challenge at the ATP world championships in Hanover

■ **WEDNESDAY:** After defeats this weekend, can Manchester United and Arsenal overcome tough opponents and injury in the Champions' League?

■ **FRIDAY:** England's cricketers move to Perth for the second of the two back-to-back Tests after their efforts in Brisbane. Alan Lee previews the match

■ **FOOTBALL SATURDAY:** Comprehensive coverage with the country's best team of columnists — Lynne Truss, Robert Elms, Anthony Rudd, Oliver Holt and Kevin McCarr

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

Table with 4 columns: Team, P, W, L, Pts. Rows include Manchester, Sheffield, Darby, etc.

WORTH SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Worth super-middleweight champion... 11th, Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

FALL OF WICKETS

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-01, 2-61, 3-164, 4-308... WASHING: WASHAM 10-0-1-0...

RYCING

CYCLO-CROSS: Open London championship... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Pool Hunt Invitational... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Address Victory Street... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

SNOOKER

BIRMINGHAM: Liverpool Victoria United... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

SQUASH

CARD: Hargrove Open... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

UNIBALL TROPHY

UNIBALL TROPHY: Pool stage... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

CRICKET

CRICKET: One-day international... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

EQUESTRIANISM

EQUESTRIANISM: AMSTERDAM: World Cup Show... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

FENCING

FENCING: GORRESBROOK LEISURE CENTRE... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

LUGE

LUGE: NZL: Australia: World Cup... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

SWIMMING

SWIMMING: RIO DE JANEIRO: World Cup... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

TENNIS

TENNIS: HARTFORD: Connecticut ATP... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

BOXING

BOXING: DENNY CLIP: Fourth round... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

CRICKET

CRICKET: One-day international... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

FENCING

FENCING: GORRESBROOK LEISURE CENTRE... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

LUGE

LUGE: NZL: Australia: World Cup... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

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TENNIS

TENNIS: HARTFORD: Connecticut ATP... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

VOLLEYBALL

VOLLEYBALL: JAPAN: Men's world championship... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS: ST ASAPH: Danbridge British veterans... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

CRICKET

CRICKET: One-day international... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

FENCING

FENCING: GORRESBROOK LEISURE CENTRE... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

LUGE

LUGE: NZL: Australia: World Cup... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

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TENNIS: HARTFORD: Connecticut ATP... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

VOLLEYBALL

VOLLEYBALL: JAPAN: Men's world championship... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...



Julian Snow stoops to conquer Rory Gunn 6-5, 6-2, 6-1 in the semi-finals of the real tennis British Land Open at Queen's Club. He will now face Steve Vergara, 20, who became the youngest player to reach the final by beating Mike Gooding

Cross country

Cross country: ST ASAPH: Danbridge British veterans... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division... 1. S. Hargrave (Hamp) vs J. Hargrave...

THE BRITISH LAND COMPANY PLC

Advertisement for The British Land Company PLC, featuring a large image of a building and text about property services.

HOCCY

Table with columns for Hockey leagues: National League, Northern Counties League, etc.

World Cup European qualifying zone

Table with columns for World Cup European qualifying zone: Pool one, Pool two, etc.

RUGBY UNION

Table with columns for Rugby Union: Premiership, Championship, etc.

WELSH LEAGUE

Table with columns for Welsh League: Premier division, etc.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Table with columns for International Match: France vs Australia, etc.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page for 'Rally' and 'to fire cash quick'.

هكذا من الأصل

TENNIS

VOLLEYBALL

HOCKEY

Rallying round to find cash for quick fix

Kevin Eason on the enthusiasts who will be battling alongside the sport's elite over three long days

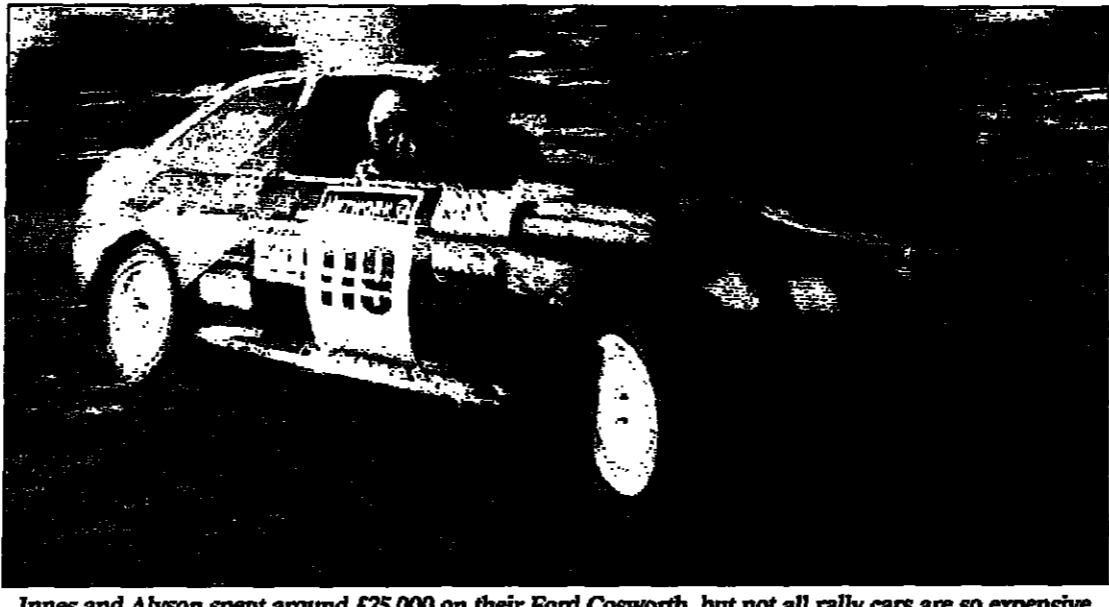
Prospective owners should hope that Paul Green finds his way safely through the forbiddingly solid trees that line the most difficult routes on the Rally of Great Britain today.



Unlike the leading manufacturer-backed teams, with their multimillion pound budgets, rallyers' prime objective is to get to his Skoda home in one go, guided by his wife, Stephanie.



Innes and Alyson Marlow are two of the scores of enthusiastic amateurs taking part in the Rally of Great Britain over three days of intense competition this week



Innes and Alyson spent around £25,000 on their Ford Cosworth, but not all rally cars are so expensive

which helps to maintain the car and provide cheap spares, but money is always a battle without a generous sponsor, as another husband and wife team have discovered.

ed in one of the icons of world rallying, a Ford Escort Cosworth. "It cost us about £25,000," Alyson, 32, said, "but you don't have to spend that much at all."

our time doing something which has excitement and is an experience." Like the Greens, though, avoiding expensive accidents or breakdowns is a priority, particularly for the Marlows, who have failed to finish their past two RAC Rallies.

Edward and Philip Pugh simply want to avoid extra expense at all costs, as they navigate their Ford Ka through the mud and bullets of what is considered to be one of the toughest rallies in the world.

is one of the people who inspired us to have a go," Edward said. "Philip and I were schoolfriends and we grew up together just wanting to go rallying."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT The word "kibitzer," defined in the dictionary as "an onlooker at card games, especially one who offers unwanted advice," is a term in general use in the bridge world to describe someone who watches the game.

Many years ago, John Crawford, a top American playern in the pre-war era, was declared in Seven Spades. Crawford, always a lively, charismatic figure, was surrounded by an array of spectators West had led the club queen and Crawford won in a dummey.

WORD-WATCHING

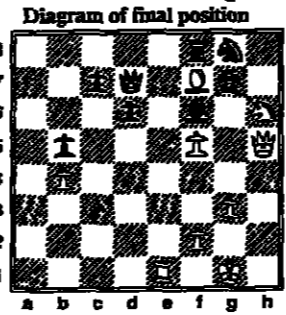
- PROPYLAEM a. Liquid gas storage b. Entrance vestibule c. A thoracic organ

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT from The Times 1993 World Championship.

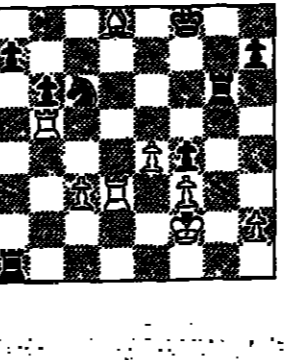
Times and Kasparov In 1993 The Times organised a world chess championship held at the Savoy Theatre in London between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short. The Times is now proud to continue the association with the world chess champion by offering ten Times readers a free place to compete against him in his charity chess display, to be held in December.

Table with 2 columns: Ruy Lopez, moves 1-36.



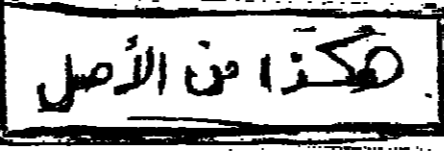
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Lasker-Chigorin, Hastings 1895. The white king is slightly restricted. How did Black close the net?



GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Multi-column schedule for sports events including Football, Rugby Union, Hockey, and other sports from today to Sunday.



Law Report November 23 1998 Court of Appeal

Extension of requirement for leave to appeal

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal, Civil Division: Leave to appeal and skeleton arguments)

From January 1, 1999 leave would be required for all appeals other than appeals against committal orders, refusals to grant habeas corpus and secure accommodation orders. The extension of the requirement for leave to appeal would clarify the position as to the need for leave and should reduce the number of inappropriate appeals. Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Tucker so stated in a practice direction handed down on November 17.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS stated.

Introduction

1 This practice direction sets out the practice and procedure for dealing with applications for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, and for providing skeleton arguments. It had been the subject of consultation with members of the Court of Appeal, and set out the collective views of the court. 2 The provisions of Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Procedure) (1995) 1 WLR 1191 dated July 26, 1995 must be read subject to this practice direction. 3 Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the 1995 practice direction applied, with any necessary modifications, to this practice direction. 4 In this practice direction: (a) unless otherwise specified, "the court of first instance" means the court or tribunal which made the decision which was challenged; and (b) references to the "judge" include, where appropriate, members of tribunals.

Part 1: Leave to appeal

5 Part 1 of this practice direction came into force forthwith. 6 Many appeals required leave: that is, the permission of the court of first instance, the court which made the decision which was challenged, or of the Court of Appeal to bring an appeal. 7 The experience of the Court of Appeal was that many appeals to appeal were made which were quite hopeless. They demonstrated basic misconceptions as to the purpose of the

civil appeal system and the different roles played by appellate courts and courts of first instance. 8 Courts of first instance had a crucial role in determining applications for leave to appeal. The guidance in this practice direction was designed to ensure that that crucial role was exercised as constructively as possible, and to assist parties, their legal advisers, trial judges and the Court of Appeal to deal justly with applications for leave to appeal. 9 From which court should leave to appeal be sought? 10 The court which had just reached its decision was often in the best position to judge whether the case was or was not one where there should be an appeal. It should not leave the decision to the Court of Appeal.

Courts of first instance could help to minimise the delay and expense which an appeal involved. Where the parties were present for delivery of the judgment, it should be routine for the judge below to ask whether either party wanted leave to appeal and to deal with the matter then and there. However, if the court of first instance was in doubt whether an appeal would have a real prospect of success or involved a point of general principle, the safe course was to refuse leave to appeal. It was always open to the Court of Appeal to grant leave. 9 The advantages which flowed from leave being considered by the court of first instance were lost if the application could not be listed before the judge who had made the decision which was the subject of the application. 10 Where it was not possible for the application for leave to be listed before the same judge, where undue delay would be caused by so listing it, the Court of Appeal would be sympathetic to applicants who claimed that it was impracticable for them to make their applications to the court below and would not require such an application to be made. 11 General leave to appeal 10 There was no limit on the number of appeals the Court of Appeal was prepared to hear. It was therefore not relevant to consider whether the Court of Appeal might prefer to select for itself which appeals it would like to hear.

The general rule applied by the Court of Appeal, and thus the relevant basis for first instance courts deciding whether to grant leave, was that leave would be given unless an appeal would have no realistic prospect of success. A fanciful prospect would not count. Leave might also be given in exceptional circumstances even though the case had no real prospect of success if there was an issue which, in the public interest, should be examined by the Court of Appeal. Examples were where a case raised questions of great public interest or questions of general policy, or where authority binding on the Court of Appeal might call for reconsideration. 11 The approach would differ depending on the category and subject matter of the decision and the reason for seeking leave to appeal as would be indicated below. However, if the issue to be raised on the appeal was of general importance that would be a factor in favour of granting leave. 12 On the other hand, if the issues were not generally important and the costs of an appeal would far exceed what was at stake, that would be a factor which weighed against the grant of leave to appeal. 13 Points of law 12 Leave should not be granted unless the judge considered that there was a real prospect of the Court of Appeal coming to a different conclusion on a point of law which would materially affect the outcome of the case. An appeal on the ground that there was no evidence to support a finding was an appeal on a point of law, but it was insufficient to show that there was little evidence. 13 The Court of Appeal would rarely interfere with a finding of fact on the judge's evaluation of oral evidence as to the primary facts or if an appeal would involve examining the fine detail of the judge's factual investigation. 14 Leave was more likely to be appropriate where what was being challenged was the inference which the judge had drawn from the primary facts, or where the judge had not received any particular benefit from having actually seen the witnesses, and it was properly arguable that materially different inferences should be drawn from the evidence. 15 In such a case the judge, if he granted leave, should expressly indicate that that was the basis on which leave was given. 16 If a case was one which had involved considering many witnesses and oral evidence, the trial court considered whether to grant leave and, where it refused leave, gave its reasons for doing so. 17 That was because in a case of that sort the Court of Appeal was less able to assess whether an appeal was appropriate. 18 Questions of discretion 16 The Court of Appeal did not interfere with the exercise of discretion by a judge unless the court was satisfied the judge was wrong. The burden on an appellant was a heavy one, many family cases did not qualify for leave for that reason. 17 Where a respondent considered that the application to appeal was not appropriate, the respondent should normally be prepared to argue the additional issues at that hearing. 18 If, however, a respondent considered the additional points would have a significant effect on the preparation necessary for or the length of the hearing, he could inform the appellant within 14 days of the appellant the notice that he required an application to be made prior to the hearing. 19 An application should then be made in writing within 14 days accompanied, if necessary, by short written submissions, which should be served on the respondent. The respondent could deliver short written submissions within a further 14 days. 20 In a case where, where practical, give its decision as to whether the additional point could be argued prior to the hearing of the appeal. 21 More than one level of appeal 20 Where there had already been an appeal to a court, not a tribunal, against the decision being challenged, for example from a district judge to a circuit judge or from a master to a High Court judge, and the application was for leave for a further appeal to the Court of Appeal, a more restrictive approach to the test for leave to appeal should be adopted if there had already been one unsuccessful appeal. 22 Leave should be granted only if the case raised an important point of principle or practice, or the case was one which for some other reason should be considered by the Court of Appeal. 23 The form 21 Annexed to the practice direction was a generic example of the form which the judge should complete when he granted or refused leave to appeal, giving his reasons. The reasons for the decision need only be brief, for example, difficult point of law or pure question of fact. 24 All parties would, on request, be given a copy of the form. It was the applicant's responsibility to annex the form to his notice of application where he had been refused leave, or to his notice of appeal where he had been granted leave. 25 At present, the circumstances in which leave to appeal was required were complex and by no means obvious. When a court was unclear whether leave was required, it should assume leave was required and determine an application for leave. 26 From January 1, 1999, leave would be required for all appeals except appeals against: (a) committal orders; (b) refusals to grant habeas corpus; and (c) secure accommodation orders made pursuant to section 25 of the Children Act 1989. 27 The extension of the requirement for leave to appeal would clarify the position as to the need for leave, and should reduce the number of inappropriate appeals. However, the extension did mean that courts should deal with applications for leave as effectively as possible. 28 Part 2: Skeleton arguments 25 A skeleton argument was a document which identified and summarised the points which would be relied on without arguing them fully. For guidance on the form and content of skeleton arguments, see paragraph 37 of the 1995 practice direction. Litigants in person could provide a skeleton argument if they wished, but were not required to do so. 26 Commencement 26 Part 2 of this practice direction applied to applications lodged and appeals set down in the Court of Appeal before or after January 1, 1999, unless all skeleton arguments had already been lodged prior to that date. 27 In those cases where the bundles were lodged prior to January 1, 1999 and all skeleton arguments had not yet been provided, any skeleton argument not previously lodged had to be lodged by February 1, 1999 or, if earlier, not later than 14 days before the hearing. Skeleton arguments for appeals to the Court of Appeal to deal efficiently with applications for leave to appeal, all represented appellants for leave had to provide a skeleton argument. 28 Two copies of the skeleton argument must accompany the bundle of documents which the applicant's solicitors lodged with the Civil Appeals Office for the application. Those copies should be lodged with the permission of the court. Permission would only be granted if there were good reasons for doing so. 29 Where dates were of significance in relation to the proposed appeal, a chronology should be filed and served with the applicant's skeleton argument. 30 Skeleton arguments for appeals 31 The directions relating to the timetable for skeleton arguments in respect of all appeals, whether leave was granted by the court below or the Court of Appeal, or was not required, were now set out in this practice direction. These directions applied to paragraphs 9(2) and (3) and 40 to 46 of the 1995 practice direction. 32 Where leave to appeal was granted by the Court of Appeal, the appellant, and any respondent who had lodged a skeleton argument in response to the leave application, were required to provide skeleton arguments for the purposes of the appeal, subject to making any minor amendments which they considered necessary, such as changes to page references, or they could present fresh skeleton arguments for the purposes of the appeal. 33 The appellant's solicitors must include with the appeal bundle four copies of their skeleton argument. Those copies should be lodged with, but not bound in, the bundle. The appellant's solicitors must also include a copy of that skeleton argument with the set of bundles served on the respondent. 34 Appellants were reminded of the obligation to serve a set of bundles on the respondent at the same time as the appeal bundles were lodged with the Civil Appeals Office, see paragraph 21 of the 1995 practice direction. 35 No supplemental or revised skeleton arguments could be lodged without the permission of the court. 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16 The Court of Appeal did not interfere with the exercise of discretion by a judge unless the court was satisfied the judge was wrong. The burden on an appellant was a heavy one, many family cases did not qualify for leave for that reason. 17 Where a respondent considered that the application to appeal was not appropriate, the respondent should normally be prepared to argue the additional issues at that hearing. 18 If, however, a respondent considered the additional points would have a significant effect on the preparation necessary for or the length of the hearing, he could inform the appellant within 14 days of the appellant the notice that he required an application to be made prior to the hearing. 19 An application should then be made in writing within 14 days accompanied, if necessary, by short written submissions, which should be served on the respondent. The respondent could deliver short written submissions within a further 14 days. 20 In a case where, where practical, give its decision as to whether the additional point could be argued prior to the hearing of the appeal. 21 More than one level of appeal 20 Where there had already been an appeal to a court, not a tribunal, against the decision being challenged, for example from a district judge to a circuit judge or from a master to a High Court judge, and the application was for leave for a further appeal to the Court of Appeal, a more restrictive approach to the test for leave to appeal should be adopted if there had already been one unsuccessful appeal. 22 Leave should be granted only if the case raised an important point of principle or practice, or the case was one which for some other reason should be considered by the Court of Appeal. 23 The form 21 Annexed to the practice direction was a generic example of the form which the judge should complete when he granted or refused leave to appeal, giving his reasons. 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Where the parties were present for delivery of the judgment, it should be routine for the judge below to ask whether either party wanted leave to appeal and to deal with the matter then and there. However, if the court of first instance was in doubt whether an appeal would have a real prospect of success or involved a point of general principle, the safe course was to refuse leave to appeal. It was always open to the Court of Appeal to grant leave. 9 The advantages which flowed from leave being considered by the court of first instance were lost if the application could not be listed before the judge who had made the decision which was the subject of the application. 10 Where it was not possible for the application for leave to be listed before the same judge, where undue delay would be caused by so listing it, the Court of Appeal would be sympathetic to applicants who claimed that it was impracticable for them to make their applications to the court below and would not require such an application to be made. 11 General leave to appeal 10 There was no limit on the number of appeals the Court of Appeal was prepared to hear. It was therefore not relevant to consider whether the Court of Appeal might prefer to select for itself which appeals it would like to hear.

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Unless there were special reasons for making an application earlier, to avoid additional expense, the application to appeal should be made to deal with at the outset of the appeal and all parties should normally be prepared to argue the additional issues at that hearing. 20 If, however, a respondent considered the additional points would have a significant effect on the preparation necessary for or the length of the hearing, he could inform the appellant within 14 days of the appellant the notice that he required an application to be made prior to the hearing. 21 An application should then be made in writing within 14 days accompanied, if necessary, by short written submissions, which should be served on the respondent. 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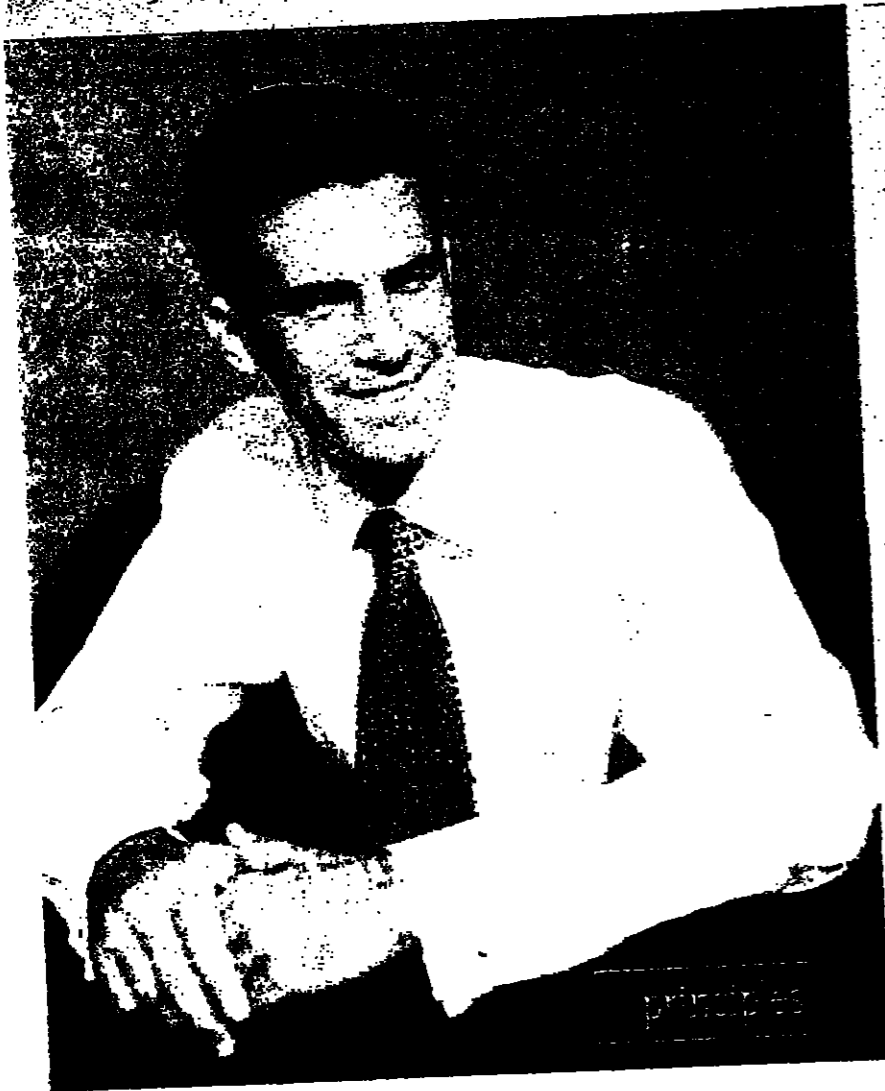
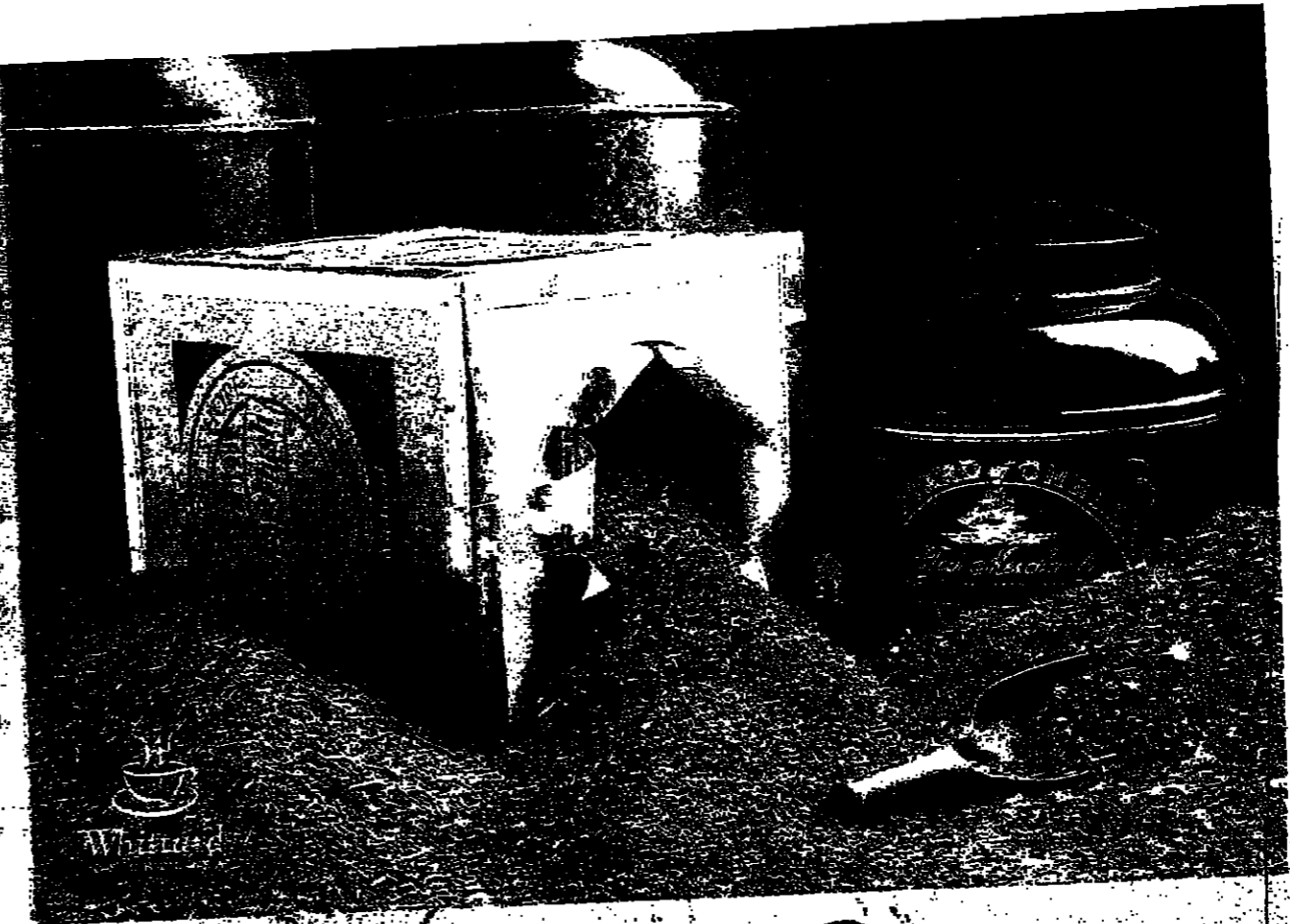
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AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

SAVE 20% ON YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

CHOC EXPRESS



Starting tomorrow, collect the first of five discount vouchers this week and you can save 20 per cent on your Christmas shopping at five of the biggest names in the high street. With tomorrow's offer you can enjoy 20 per cent off fresh arabica coffees and speciality teas from Whittard of Chelsea. Other 20 per cent offers this week are:

- Wednesday - Sockshop's gift ideas include plain, patterned and fun socks, children's accessories, glamorous hosiery and underwear
- Thursday - Principles and Principles for Men help you find the key party looks with a stylish range of clothing and gift ideas for family and friends
- Friday - ChocExpress offers you 20 per cent off its special edition range of delivered chocolates: 20 carefully selected chocolates and truffles, sent in beautiful handmade oval keepsake boxes, ideal for gifts
- Saturday - Knickerbox offers savings on seasonal lingerie, plunging velvet bras, sassy hot pants, seductive sheer slips and slinky silk wraps.

CHOC EXPRESS

SOCK SHOP

principles for men

principles

KNICKERBOX



CHANGING TIMES

مكذاب من الأصل

NOVEMBER 23 1998
Romania display shows up Irish failings

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Alcan, Bell Canada, Canadian National Railway.

BANKS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Bank of Montreal, Royal Bank.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Amstar, Borden.

MINING

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Barrick Gold, Placer Dome.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Air Canada, WestJet.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Canadian Paper, International Paper.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Alcan, Bell Canada.

BREWERY, PUBS & REST

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Anheuser-Busch, Molson.

ELECTRICITY

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Hydro-Quebec, Ontario Hydro.

HEALTHCARE

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Canadian Real Estate, Sun Life.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Bell Canada, Canadian Pacific.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like CanWest, Home Depot.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Intel, Microsoft.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Home Depot, Sears.

OIL & GAS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Canadian Natural, Enbridge.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Sun Life, Canadian Life.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Canadian Tire, Home Depot.

CHEMICALS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Dow Chemical, BASF.

ENGINEERING

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Bombardier, Alcan.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Sun Life, Canadian Life.

MEDIA

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Canadian Pacific, Bell Canada.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Sun Life, Canadian Life.

CONSTRUCTION

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Canadian Pacific, Bell Canada.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table with columns: Stock, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Sun Life, Canadian Life.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table with columns: Stock, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Sun Life, Canadian Life.

UNDATED

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DISTRIBUTORS

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table with columns: TSE 300, Company, Price, % Chg, Bid, Ask, P/E. Includes companies like Bombardier, Alcan.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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More and more companies are selling their products on the Internet. Are You? COMPAQ Planet Microsoft. Visit Planet's Advanced Technology Demonstration Centres in Bishopsgate, London & Central Leeds. Freephone: 0500 550 650. E-mail: info@theplanet.net www.theplanet.net

Large table on the right side of the page containing various stock market data, including company names, prices, and percentages.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: Allen, Goldshield Group, Hewlett, Liberafrica, Mellor, Majestic Wine, Christian Salvesen, Siebe, Southnews, South Staffs Water. Finals: Cambridge Antibody Technology, Chrysalis, Ferraris Group, Grantchester Holdings, Quadramatic, RM, Unidare, Yeoman Group. Economic statistics: Tokyo markets closed. Italian cities Nov CPI estimates, first batch. US Treasury Oct budget statement. No UK economic data scheduled. EU finance ministers meeting.

TOMORROW
Interims: Anglian Group, Cafyns, Chloride Group, Eidos, EMI, Jarvis Hotels, Johnson Matthey, National Grid, Real Time Control, Severn Trent, Sterling Industries, Triastr, Vitroplant, Vocalis Group, Vtech Holdings, Wynnstay Properties. Finals: Airtrous, Anglo Irish Bank, Athlone Extractions, Cosalt, McLeod Russel. Economic statistics: UK Rics Oct housing market survey. US Q3 GDP, revised. US Oct durable goods. Italian cities Nov CPI estimates, second batch. API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Baldwin Industrial Services, Banner Chemicals, Bristol Water Holdings, IWP International, National Power, Radstock Technology, Victoria. Finals: Abacus Polar, Advanced Power Components, Granada Group, NHP, Tate & Lyle, Twestfontein United Collieries. Economic statistics: UK Oct non-EU, Sept global trade. UK Oct HICP UK auction of 2.5 pct 2013 index-linked gilts. US Oct consumer spending, personal income. US weekly jobless claims. Insee French Oct investment survey.

THURSDAY
Interims: 3i, BPB, Bristol United Press, Brockhampton, Caledonia Investments, Comino, CPL Aromas, DBS Management, Gartmore Shared Equity, London Merchant Securities, Merrydown, Pennon Group, William Ransom & Son, Sedgemoor, Shires Incomes, Southern Electric, Sytore, Symonds, Waddington, Yorkshire Water, York Waterworks. Finals: Diploma. Economic statistics: UK BSA analysis of Oct mortgage lending data. BoE Governor Eddie George to testify to Treasury Select Committee on Nov Inflation Report. UK CBI Oct industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY
Interims: Oriental Restaurant, Stockbourne, Touchstone Group. Finals: VTR. Economic statistics: No UK economic data scheduled.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL CLARK

EMI aims to pick up the tempo

EMI GROUP: There is unlikely to be much in the way of surprises when half-year results are produced tomorrow. Most of the bad news for shareholders is already known following the recent profits warning.

LBWest Panmure, the broker, is forecasting that pre-tax profits will have collapsed from £75.6 million to £45 million although direct comparisons with last year are difficult because of certain distortions. The company has indicated that profits of its hard-pressed music side will be down 20 per cent from £112.6 million to £90 million, while the enlarged HMV arm should come in with a whopping first-half loss of £15 million stemming from the interest charges on debt of £630 million.

It is hoped that some cost reductions will be visible at HMV, but this full benefit is unlikely to materialise until the second half. The music industry remains flat and the group's lack of big name groups and the feared break-up of its biggest earner, the Spice Girls, has only added to problems. EMI, chaired by Sir Colin Southgate, has promised that the dividend will be pegged at 4.3p.

GRANADA: Last summer's World Cup in France is likely to play a significant role in final results due out on Wednesday. The market consensus is for pre-tax profits of about £730 million, compared with £650 million. Earnings per share are expected to grow from 50.6p to 56p, with a 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 10p.

The group's performance is expected to be broadly based, with the hotel division enjoying a solid performance and sales growth of some 7 per cent, plus stronger margins. This will be particularly the case in France, where the benefits of the World Cup will be clearly reflected. The Meridien hotel chain is likely to have had a particularly strong year.

A bumper performance will also have been enjoyed by the food service division, which includes contract catering and the motorway service stations. Media, where interest is likely to focus on the prospects for OnDigital, got off to a slow start, reflecting the downturn in advertising revenue. But conditions have picked up, helped again by the World Cup and should produce sales growth of 5 per cent. The one black spot is likely to



Sir Colin Southgate, executive chairman of EMI Group, anxious to put the bad news behind him

be television rental, with consumers taking the view that it is cheaper to buy these days than rent. Despite continuing decline, it will still be milked for cash.

Fraser Ramzan, at Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, is cautious about prospects for the current year and is worried by the prospect of a slowdown in the hotel division, which has already been foreshadowed by its rival, Ladbroke. But he remains a buyer of Granada.

SIEBE: The engineer has failed to achieve its organic sales growth target of 10 per cent during either of the past two years and there is little reason to suggest it will have been achieved this time round. Instead, the group will have been forced to

rely on contributions from various acquisitions.

Interim results out later today, are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £219 million to between £240 million and £247 million. Earnings per share will also have kept pace, rising from 6.9p to 7.8p. But these figures are likely to show the scars created by the economic slowdown, reflected in the share price.

As a result, brokers are likely to focus their attention on the group's much-publicised restructuring programme that will cost £100 million over the next two years. Most brokers suspect that margins will have come under further pressure.

In its July trading statement, Siebe said that the Far East "remains a concern and we are mon-

itoring our operations closely" despite a slight recovery in sales there. The payout should grow from 1.3p to 1.5p.

NATIONAL POWER: Many uncertainties face Britain's biggest power generator over the next few years and this, combined with regulatory pressure, has begun to take its toll on profitability as interim results on Wednesday, will testify.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at about £210 million, down from £254 million last time. These will be the first results from the company since the expiry of the much-publicised coal contracts in April. Profitability will have been boosted by problems in France, which has led to the group export-

ing electricity. But the regulator is applying pressure for coal stations to be disposed of. In the meantime, the group is expected to make acquisitions and is seen as a front-runner for London Electricity, which has been put up for sale by its US parent.

BPB INDUSTRIES: Britain's biggest plasterboard manufacturer will have found the going difficult during the first six months, as interim results on Thursday will testify. Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, is forecasting pre-tax profits of £89.4 million, which falls within a market range of £88 million to £91 million. That compares with £88.8 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be unaltered at about 11.5p a share.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, says last month's acquisition of the outstanding 75 per cent of Gyproc for £87 million will be marginally earnings-enhancing.

TATE & LYLE: Few surprises are anticipated when final pre-tax profits are reported on Wednesday, of between £158 million and £160 million against £159.3 million a year earlier. The final dividend will be flat at 17p. Brokers will be looking to see if the starch and sugar producer posts results that are in line with their revised forecasts after the group gave warning last May that full-year profits would be "substantially below" expectations.

Sam Gifford, the finance director, said then that the shortfall would be up to £70 million and put the full-year pre-tax figure at roughly £170 million.

NATIONAL GRID: Expansion plans will top the agenda when interims are announced tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in within a band of £215 million to £218 million, against £225 million a year ago.

But analysts say a better judge of performance will be operating profits, which should be between £275 million and £280 million, compared with £258.9 million for the corresponding period.

Apart from the figures, analysts will welcome any comments regarding National Grid's expansion plans, in particular overseas, where the electricity distributor has expressed an interest in American utilities. It is prepared to spend up to £1 billion in the US.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Calm ahead for markets

THE recent welcome return of some calm to the financial markets is unlikely to be disturbed in a working week cut short by a public holiday in Japan and the Thanksgiving break in the US.

In the UK, the most closely watched release of the week will be the November Confederation of British Industry industrial trends survey on Thursday. The latest minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meetings has demonstrated the increasing importance of the forward-looking business surveys to MPC policy-making. The City expects the CBI survey index to fall further into negative territory, implying a continuing decline in manufacturing output.

The trade data due to be published on Wednesday will confirm that the trade deficit is acting as a growing drag on economic activity. MMS International, the economics forecasting group, predicts the whole world deficit will balloon from £13 billion to £22 billion in September. The non-EU balance in October should show a modest recovery from the record figure in September to register a deficit of £1.8 billion. The markets will also be closely watching the appearance of Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, before the Treasury Select Committee on Thursday for hints as to when the next rate cut might arrive.

In Europe, a series of inflation data releases this week will be closely examined for their relevance to European Central Bank policy after the advent of the single currency on January 1. West German inflation is expected to decline to 0.5 per cent suggesting the ECB will have space to cut rates early next year. The Italian inflation figures could prompt the Bank of Italy to cut rates later next week.

In contrast to the UK, US third-quarter growth is expected to be revised upwards to an annualised rate of 4.0 per cent from 3.3 per cent. However, much of the revision is expected to derive from stocks build-up, which is likely to act as a drag on growth in further quarters. Markets will also keep one eye on the Opec meeting in Vienna on Wednesday, scheduled to discuss oil market developments since a June agreement to cut output by almost 5 per cent to drain a glut of crude.

ALASDAIR MURRAY



The Sunday Times: Buy Jarvis Hotels, LucasVarioy, Rebus, Touchstone, Rolls-Royce. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Carlton Communications, Grampian Holdings, Peptide Therapeutics, Britt Allcroft, Luminar; Sell Woolwich. The Observer: Buy Airtrous. The Mail on Sunday: Buy TT Group. Express on Sunday: Buy Majestic Wine, Leeds Sporting.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

The Times Organic Christmas pudding with mead



This year we are offering readers a Christmas pudding made to a new recipe. For the first time, Frances Bissell has been able to develop an organic pudding made to her own recipe by the award-winning Village Bakery in Cumbria, which specialises in organic foods. Not only is the pudding organic, it is also suitable for vegetarians as it contains no animal fats. As well as the traditional vine fruits, the pudding contains dried apricots, prunes, hazelnuts and walnuts, and — best of all — organic English mead. Weighing 900g, it is suitable for a family and can be reheated by steaming or in the microwave. Full instructions are on the packaging. Serve with traditional brandy butter, fresh cream, vanilla ice-cream or crème fraiche.

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CHANGING TIMES

Executives set for pay bonanza

By Gavin Lumsden

TOP directors in Britain are set for a bumper pay rise next year on the back of managing share options and "long-term incentive" plans, according to Pensions Investment Research Consultants (Pirc).

£1.7 million for the fortunate directors, who already earn basic salaries of £334,000 on average.

Smart Bell, Pirc's research director, said: "This is a rough calculation but it is indicative of the value potentially transferable to leading directors. It represents a considerable 'hidden' element of remuneration packages that is not currently valued in company accounts."

According to Pirc, the vast sums could spark off shareholder rebellions at next year's annual meetings. Its research suggests investors may be less than impressed with the easy performance targets that have triggered the payouts to directors. It also believes that directors could be tempted to renegotiate the strike price of their schemes if a recession knocks their company's shares.

UK insurers' shares too highly rated, says study

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

SHARE PRICES of almost all the leading quoted UK insurance companies are overvalued against many of those in continental Europe, according to a new analysis of the sector.

United Assurance and Britannic are overvalued by 20 per cent, according to research by the Commerzbank team.

The assessment has not been made by forecasting return on capital, which is the traditional way to value insurers. Instead, the team tried to quantify the variability of both investment and underwriting returns within each insurer. They then used this information to calculate the

appropriate cost of capital with which to discount forecast returns. The model suggests that Germany's AMB and ERGO, together with Swiss Re, are more than 20 per cent too expensive.

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	2.67	Bank	110.80
Austria Sch	20.70	Borg	2.40
Belgium Fr	60.03	505	55.97
Canada C\$	2.677	2.489	
Cyprus C\$	0.8711	0.7996	
Denmark kr	11.23	10.34	
DM	5.89	5.22	
Finland Mk	5.85	5.22	
France Fr	9.86	9.08	
Germany DM	2.962	2.720	
Greece Dr	3.349	3.051	
Hong Kong \$	13.65	12.45	
Iceland	128	108	
Indonesia	209.88	277.83	
India R	1,380.0	1,091.3	
Israel Sh	7.26	6.60	
Italy Lit	14.55	13.26	
Japan Yen	214.09	196.50	
Malaysia	0.981	0.902	
Netherlands Gld	3.349	3.051	
New Zealand \$	3.22	2.98	
Norway Kr	12.92	11.88	
Portugal Esc	209.88	277.83	
S Africa R	9.98	9.02	
Spain Ptas	249.54	230.75	
Sweden Kr	14.55	13.26	
Switzerland Fr	2.457	2.239	
Turkey Lira	50.821	47.957	
USA \$	1.763	1.620	

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as quoted by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as of close of trading yesterday.

Brewer's decision looms

By Dominic Walsh

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries is this week expected to decide whether to launch a hostile bid for its Midlands rival, Marston, Thompson & Evershard.

Marston is believed to have rebuffed W&DB's initial approach and is pressing ahead with plans to sell its unwanted estate in a securitisation deal with Nomura worth £137 million.

W&DB, of which David Thompson is the managing director, argues that there are massive benefits to be gained from consolidation among the regional brewers in what is becoming an increasingly competitive market. However,



Thompson: considering bid

the new Marston's board believes that the company's future lies in being an independent pub retailer focused on strong brands such as the Pitcher & Piano and Via Vita bars.

مكتبة من الأصل

Oil groups face cuts in Caspian

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

WESTERN oil companies will be forced to cut investment in the Caspian Sea region if Opec fails to act this week to reverse the crumbling oil price.

Oil companies such as BP, Chevron and Mobil have poured money into Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in the hope that it will replace the North Sea as the new frontier, but the low oil price and high transport costs may spoil their expansion plans.

A dispute is expected at Wednesday's meeting in Vienna of the Opec oil cartel after a week in which the Brent crude forward contract dipped to \$11.15 per barrel.

He reckons there are comparisons between the Caspian region and the North Sea, where average production costs are \$12 a barrel, indicating that many oil companies are losing almost \$1 a barrel.



Cliff Stanford, centre, intends to help to fund and market low-budget British films

Redbus lift for British films

By Chris Ayres

CLIFF STANFORD, the entrepreneur who pocketed nearly £34 million in May when he sold Demon Internet to Scottish Telecom, will today reveal that he has used part of his personal fortune to create Redbus Films, a venture designed to help to finance and market low-budget British films.

Redbus Films will be Out of Depth, a thriller set in London and based on a true story, starring Sean Maguire and Rita Fushingham. Redbus will contribute £100,000 to the film's £450,000 budget, market it and help the producers to secure a distribution deal.

with more of a business plan than a film idea. They were clearly businessmen first and film-makers second. The whole idea of this project is to take a risk and get a good return.

Size means little in the debate on an integrated Europe

The EU's integrationist bandwagon rolls on. We all know that the aim is to create a single European economy to rival the US.



ROGER BOOTLE

The US example seems to suggest that size is everything, yet Europe's policymakers need to be mindful of one awkward fact that points in the opposite direction. Some of the world's most successful and richest countries are small.

It is also striking that most of the successful small countries have operated, against the prevailing trend, with small government sectors and lowish rates of personal taxation.

clear that they simply cannot be afforded. There is a simple lesson here for the European Union. It is even less dependent than the US. This will enable it to choose to go its own way.

But ultimately, size alone will not do much good. Combined with the EU's extremely weak democratic structures, which isolate its institutions from the voters, it may even prove to be a source of weakness.

In practice how successful an "integrated" Europe turns out to be will depend upon the policies pursued. It can integrate until the cows come home, but if this is concurrent with the extension of an intrusive state, the perpetuation of excessive levels of taxation and the suppression of market forces then Europe will stagnate and become an economic backwater.

Personal bankruptcy is catching

BANKRUPTCY is contagious, with one third of personal insolvencies leading to someone else going bust, according to a new survey (Adam Jones writes).

The findings of the report by the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency (SPI) also suggested that there has been a big increase in the number of bankrupt farmers. The SPI said 37 per cent of bankruptcy cases led to a "knock-on" insolvency. The average debt was £103,950, down from £106,500 in the 1996 survey.

But there is no point in other countries trying to copy it because the world has room for only one Switzerland. In the case of Hong Kong, it could be argued, its success is based upon its unique relationship with China that cannot be repeated elsewhere.

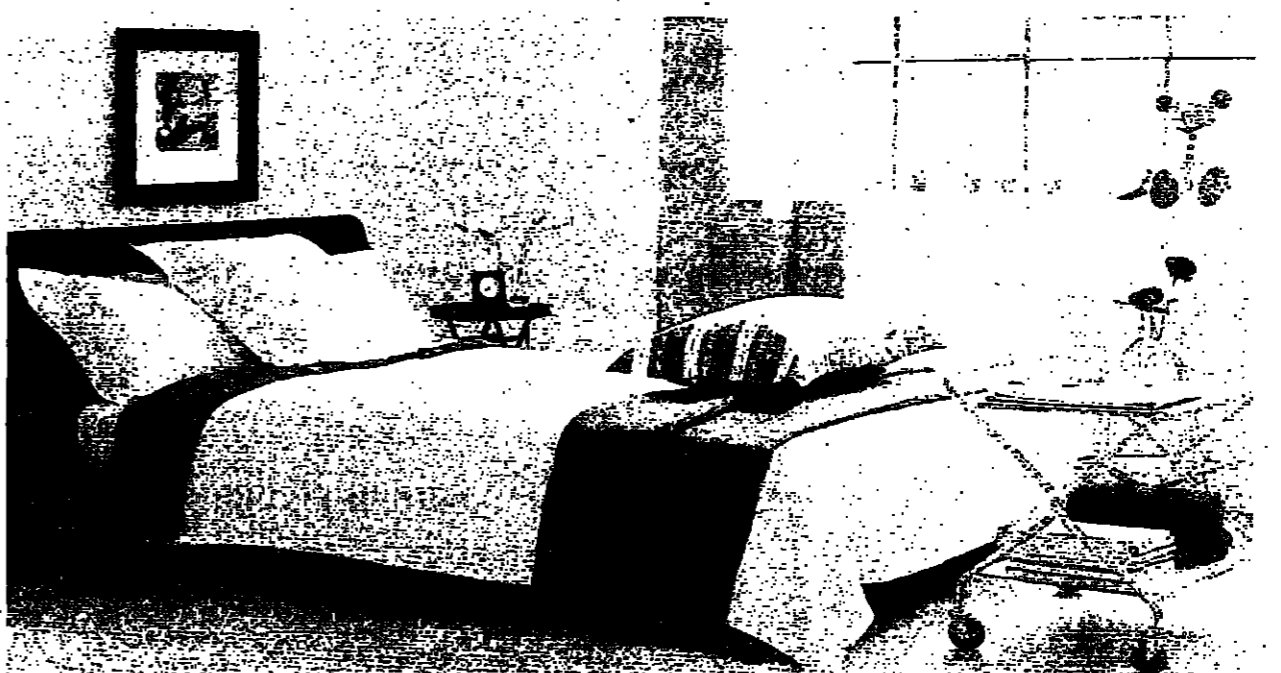
Yet all successful small countries share an inherent weakness which they have turned into a strength. They are acutely dependent upon big countries allowing them to trade extensively. If the world puts up barriers, they cannot easily survive.

Being small and vulnerable has meant that the consequences of the politicians making gross economic errors - isolationism, welfarism, militarism or other wasteful state spending - would be devastating. But the very obviousness of these dangers has enabled the successful small countries to avoid them. It has been abundantly

Table with columns: 1998 High, 1998 Low, Mid Cap (million), Price per share, Dividend yield, % change, P/E ratio. Lists various companies like 219 10 Gap, 1370 AFA Systems, etc.

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Formula One in a spin

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

FORMULA ONE is having a row with the Stock Exchange over disclosure of key documents in the listing particulars relating to its planned \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) euro-bond. Advisers to Bernie Ecclestone, the motor racing entrepreneur, have denied that the issue is at risk after a debt rating agency declined to provide Formula One with a single A rating.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank behind the offering, wants the bonds listed in London. However, the Stock Exchange is believed to have asked whether Formula One has released all the material documents relating to exclusive TV contracts.

The European Commission is already investigating Formula One's arrangements with broadcasters. Revenue from the sale of TV rights will form the bulk of the cashflow bondholders will receive.

Del Monte seeks listing in attempt to reunite brand

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

DEL MONTE Royal Foods, the South African company that controls the lion's share of Europe's canned pineapple market, is planning a listing in London or New York as part of a strategy aimed at reuniting the world's best-known pineapple brand.

Vivian Imerman, chief executive and major shareholder of Del Monte, wants to use a European or US-listing as a springboard for acquisitions that could ultimately bring together under one umbrella the US, European and Asian Del Monte interests. Del Monte was split into three after the takeover by RJR Nabisco in the 1980s.

The South African company, best known for its tinned pineapples and "man from Del Monte" advertisements, is today announcing the takeover of a leading Thai pineapple exporter, Siam Agro Industry Pineapple, a continuation

of a strategy aimed at increasing its 35 per cent share of the world pineapple market. The acquisition follows a partnership deal struck in July with Cirio, the Italian fresh milk and tinned food producer that also owns Lazio, the Rome football club. Cirio acquired a 30 per cent stake held by Anglo American, providing Del Monte with a strong partner with access to Europe, a market where Del Monte already has 26 per cent of tinned pineapple sales.

Mr Imerman wants to use the current slump in the pineapple business and recessionary pressures in the farming industry to take Del Monte into a bigger league. "We are the lowest-cost producer of pineapples. Production has declined because a lot of people were selling below cost." Pineapples have recently soared in price as a result of crop losses related to El Niño.

Mr Imerman's strategy is to move Del Monte out of South Africa on to the world stage and is being advised by Bain & Co on the best location for a listing. "The idea would be to raise equity capital and to have shares for acquisitions." Shares listed on a major stock exchange would give Del Monte the currency to do a deal with the other owners of the Del Monte brand, Texas Pacific in the US and Kikkoman, the Japanese soy sauce company. Mr Imerman said: "It is possibly the best thing that could happen. I think it is non-core for Kikkoman."

Mr Imerman has already taken control of Del Monte in the Philippines, buying out the interest of Kikkoman and Del Monte Corporation in the US. Mr Imerman originally took control of Del Monte when US sanctions forced Nabisco to sell its South African assets.



Tony Hooley says his digital speaker could be as important to the audio industry as the CD

Audio boffin close to deal

A CAMBRIDGE boffin who claims to have invented a revolutionary "digital loudspeaker" is close to securing £700,000 of funding, and is in talks to licence his technology to three hi-fi and audio companies (Chris Ayres writes).

Tony Hooley says his technology could be as important for the audio industry as the invention of the CD player. He said: "This product could be to the conventional loudspeaker what

the CD was to vinyl records." He added that digital speakers eliminated imperfections in sound quality suffered by conventional speakers. The product is likely to be called the Hooley Digital Speaker.

Dr Hooley's company, I... Limited, was formed in 1995 with £50,000 in funding from the DTI. It went on to receive another £300,000 from private investors.

MacLaurin tipped for M&S job

LORD MacLaurin of Knebworth, the architect of Tesco's leadership of the supermarket sector, is being tipped as a possible solution to Marks & Spencer's succession dilemma.

Reports yesterday claimed that the former Tesco chief has been approached about the post of non-executive deputy chairman, which Keith Oates is expected to relinquish in the next few days. Lord MacLaurin would then be expected to take over as chairman when Sir Richard Greenbury eventually steps down from the post.

One leading fund manager said that Lord MacLaurin 61, was an ideal person to restore M&S's fortunes after its recent fall from grace, but insisted that institutions would not lead a move, adding: "It's up to the non-executive directors to come up with a solution."

A former colleague said of Lord MacLaurin: "He is a tremendously able general who can unite the troops. He is a real master at creating organisation from conflict."

Mr Oates and Peter Salisbury, joint managing directors, have their hats in the ring to lead M&S, but Mr Oates's lobbying of directors seems to have angered Sir Richard.

Employers fear pensions burden

EMPLOYERS fear the introduction of stakeholder pensions because they believe it would add further burdens and costs to doing business (Marianne Curphey writes).

Research by NPI, the life and pensions group, claims that stakeholder pensions must be compulsory to be effective and to spread responsibility equally across all businesses.

A Green Paper outlining the structure of the stakeholder pension is expected within the next fortnight. However, ministers are thought to have rejected the idea of compulsion and are concentrating instead on how to realign tax reliefs to encourage the less well-off to save for their old age.

In the NPI study, employees were much more enthusiastic about the concept, attracted to the simplicity, flexibility and low cost of the proposed scheme. NPI has now passed its research to the DSS as part of its pensions review.

The study found that employees were worried about the cost of pension products and the role of advisers seeking commissions. They also felt the need to save for their old age because they believed that state pensions would not be indefinitely maintained. The self-employed, however, regarded the stakeholder pension as an attempt by Government to tax the self-employed and force them into an unwanted system.

Tax harmonisation will be catastrophic for Britain

From William Cash, MP

Sir, I was greatly heartened to read Rosemary Righter's analysis on EMU (November 17). As I said at the German Industry Forum on October 13, which was held at the Foreign Office, the new German policies effectively destabilise the stability pact, which was always a misguided policy aimed at force-feeding the Maastricht criteria.

Of course, the new German policies have, as many of us have predicted, incalculable consequences for unemployment in Europe compounded by the French, Italian and British Governments.

When old Labour governments resisted European integration it was because they thought it was a capitalist plot. They now enthuse for it as a socialist plot. The determination to achieve tax harmonisation agreed on November 16, to which Rosemary Righter refers, will be catastrophic for the British economy, British company directors and the British taxpayer.

The latest pamphlet from the European Foundation entitled *Moving on Up* highlights the current moves towards company and savings tax harmonisation in the European Union and the effect of these developments on the UK's control of its tax policy, and so future levels of UK tax.

British company directors should be made aware.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM CASH,
House of Commons,
London.
SW1A 0AA.

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M&S misguided over licensing

From Peter Shepherd

Sir, Marks & Spencer's statement that they are justified in challenging the Newspaper Licensing Agency's right to issue licences and charge a fee is quite simply misguided.

The Copyright, Designs and Patent Act 1988 expressly forbids the multiple copying of literary and text works except under a licence from the appropriate licensing agency. In the case of newspapers this is the Newspaper Licensing Agency. In the case of extracts from books, journals and periodicals, it is the Copyright Licensing Agency, which has been licensing business, education and government for over 15 years.

It is often mistakenly assumed that making a few copies causes nobody any harm. Such copyright infringement in fact not only deprives writers and publishers of reasonable reward for their work, but at the same time it fails to provide any incentive for creativity.

Marks & Spencer, as an organisation strongly protective of their brand, should surely be aware of this.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SHEPHERD
(chief executive),
The Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd,
90 Tottenham Court Road,
London,
W1P 0LP.

Life will go on outside EMU

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, Mr Pincham is wrong to suggest that staying out of EMU is not feasible. There is no reason to believe that most major British industries will account and invoice in euros from 1999. Some might, just as they might use dollars or francs now for some purposes by agreement with their trading partners, but most will not. And computer software which deals in foreign currency would be pretty awful if it did not allow the use of an additional foreign (sic) currency - which is what the euro is. Also his suggestion that any responsible organisation would

award a 25-year contract to a foreign company and then allow it to dictate the terms of payment is pure fantasy.

What he did not tell us is that he is a member of his council's minority Liberal Democrat group which is committed to EMU. One hopes that the controlling Conservatives would not put the ratepayers' interests at risk as Mr Pincham suggests.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARFITT,
St Andrews,
New Street,
Painswick,
Gloucestershire,
GL6 6UN.

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THE FACTS

THE BOARD

Trade policies

Art and antique sales soar in

مکتبنا من الأصل

departure fails to anger acknapp

DERBY COUNTY WEST HAM UNITED

By Matt Dickinson

ester get no De Goey

By Matt Dickinson

THE FACTS

Turnover: £1.13 billion for the year to December 1997. Market value: £2.15 billion Employees: 16,500 Pre-tax profits: £84 million, including £3.2 million from acquisitions.

THE BOARD

Pierre Bonelli, an enigmatic 59-year-old Frenchman, is Semas chief executive and one of only two executive directors at the company.

He was educated at the Ecole Polytechnique and Harvard Business School before joining Texas Instruments, the US technology group, as an engineer in 1966.

He left Texas in 1976 to become general manager and then chairman of Semas Metra, a French IT company. In 1988 the company merged with Britain's Cap Group to create the Semas currently quoted on the London and Paris stock markets, with M Bonelli taking the top position.

The other executive director of Semas is André Félix, 65, whose main responsibilities are to look after the company's technical systems on the Continent. M Félix is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications. He joined the original version of Semas (Société d'Economie et de Mathématiques Appliquées) a year after its creation in 1959.

The company is run by an executive committee, comprising the company's senior management, plus its two executive directors. Semas's non-executive directors include its chairman, Antonio Barrera de Irujo, 69, Spain's former Finance Minister and Deputy Premier.

Other non-executive directors include Sir Julian Oswald, 64, a specialist in gunnery who left the Royal Navy in 1993 after 46 years of service, and Robin Hall, 49, chairman of Semas's board investment committee and also the managing director of the venture capital group Civen. Pierre Desvillars, 52, the finance director of France Télécom, is also a non-executive director.

Nearly every information technology analyst in the City is waiting for Semas Group to make its big move. It is almost ten months since the company said it was going to buy its way into the premier league of IT companies, alongside such giants as IBM, EDS and Andersen Consulting, with an acquisition worth up to £600 million in the US. Yet still nothing has happened.

Until very recently, Semas — formed in 1988 through the merger of France's Semas Metra and Britain's Cap Group — had enjoyed an almost unblemished track record. Now, the company is beginning to look vulnerable, especially after its results in September, which were described by one analyst as "lacklustre". Shares in the company now trade at 480p, compared with 825p during the summer.

Semas operates in a baffling range of IT markets. Its main activity is systems integration, which involves installing and integrating advanced IT systems for organisations such as Société Générale and the Ministry of Defence. Its other main market is outsourcing, bidding for multimillion-pound contracts to run IT divisions for large corporations or government departments.

Semas's other activities are not so well known. It has a successful disaster recovery business, which provides clients with emergency back-up IT systems, and also a data warehousing service, which clients can use to store and manage information about customers.

On top of all this, Semas invests heavily in producing its own software, mainly for electronic payments systems. The company has been particularly successful at designing software that enables mobile phone operators to use pre-pay services.

Yet, as mentioned above, there are two issues that are forming a darkening cloud over Semas and its share price. First, it must become a global company by moving into North America. Secondly, it must start to win the kind of enormous outsourcing contracts currently going to IBM, EDS, Computer Science Corporation and Andersen Consulting. It is generally agreed that one cannot be achieved without the other.

Analysts are keen to point out that all this carries significant risk. First, Semas is virtually unknown outside Europe. Secondly, the company's management, led by Pierre Bonelli has little experience of running a global business.

SEMAs GROUP



Semas operates in a wide range of IT markets and its main activity is systems integration, for organisations such as the Société Générale, right. The group, led by the well-regarded Pierre Bonelli, left, has also designed the management infrastructure at Bouygues Telecom mobile network, centre.



respectively; old enough to provoke speculation about retirement and succession. Apart from M Bonelli and M Félix, the executive committee that runs Semas is made up of little-known non-board members.

This kind of boardroom structure does not endear Semas to the City. Neither does the fact that it has never appointed any senior executives from outside its own ranks. The tension is not eased by Semas being based a three-hour train journey away from the Square Mile in Paris.

Everything about Semas suggests that it does not want to conform to City conventions. Its annual report looks more like the record sleeve of a Radiohead album than a financial document. Rather like Semas, it looks good on the outside but is incredibly difficult to understand.

M Bonelli himself is prone to launching into intellectual discourses about even the most banal aspects of Semas's business. This non-conformism affects the staff Semas hires. M Bonelli admits that he takes on creative loose cannons, in the belief that he can manage them better than anyone else. "We tolerate what IBM would not," he says proudly.

Everything about Semas suggests that it does not want to conform to City conventions. Its annual report looks more like the record sleeve of a Radiohead album than a financial document. Rather like Semas, it looks good on the outside but is incredibly difficult to understand.

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However, Semas has no immediate plans to exit the defence markets in France and Germany, mainly because its operations in these countries are not joint ventures. The company

"Semas's recent results showed its biggest problem — organic growth. The company's sales growth of 14 per cent is below the industry average. There is also the big question of what Semas will do in the US. It has been quite a while since the company said it would make an acquisition, but nothing has happened yet."

Roger Phillips, Granville

"Semas is under pressure to win the kind of large contracts being snapped up by the likes of IBM and EDS. The risk premium of a US acquisition is an investor focus, especially given the traditional difficulty of UK companies acquiring across the Atlantic. Yet to win big contracts with companies such as BP, they need a global presence."

David Greenall, Credit Suisse First Boston

defence, energy and transport industries. The company has since restructured dramatically and is now focused mainly on the high-growth areas of telecoms and finance. Over the past few years turnover from these sectors has grown by 69 per cent and 30 per cent respectively, compared with growth of just 7 per cent in defence.

However, Semas has no immediate plans to exit the defence markets in France and Germany, mainly because its operations in these countries are not joint ventures. The company

Investors can reassure themselves that Semas is taking time to find the right deal, but the City's patience is running out. M Bonelli, meanwhile, is unrepentant. He says: "I'm not going to be bullied into it. I'm a cautious man."

Chris Ayres

says this means staff can be sent to work for other sectors when contracts dry up. "In France we will stay in defence," M Bonelli says. "In Germany, there is no short-term plan to exit."

Semas also underwent significant changes to allow it to enter the US market. Under US law, companies owned by banks cannot operate in non-financial markets. Because one of Semas's large investors is Paribas, the French financial services group, the company had to juggle its shareholdings to get around the rules. Paribas now owns just 14 per cent of Semas, while France Télécom owns 22 per cent.

According to Integrity Works, the independent consultant, Semas has a slightly old-fashioned approach to ethical expression in relation to best practice. For example, its values statement, laudable in itself, seems to be detached from its code of conduct.

Crisp Consulting is more impressed with Semas. At £660,000 M Bonelli is paid just under half what might be expected for someone of his experience. The non-executives are also mainly paid about half the going rate, but their number is excessive.

None of Semas's achievements, however, indicate whether Semas will be able to cope with its biggest challenge yet: the move into North America. M Bonelli said in February that he would be disappointed if by 2001 at least 15 per cent of Semas's revenues did not come from the US.

Investors can reassure themselves that Semas is taking time to find the right deal, but the City's patience is running out. M Bonelli, meanwhile, is unrepentant. He says: "I'm not going to be bullied into it. I'm a cautious man."

THE VERDICT

Ethical expression	6/10
Fat-cat quotient	9/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	7/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	4/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	2/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	66/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

Traded endowment policies under scrutiny

By MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Personal Investment Authority, the City watchdog, has begun monitoring the sale and pricing of second-hand endowment policies amid fears that projections for maturity values are wildly optimistic.

Over the past five years there has been huge increase in the number of traded endowment policies (Teps) bought by individual investors. The industry is worth an estimated £250 million annually, even though only one in four policyholders sells rather than surrenders their policy.

Market-makers buy endowments from policyholders who want to cash in their endowment and realise investment gains. Often the price they offer is much higher than the surrender value available from the insurance company. Market-makers then sell on Teps to institutions and to private investors.

Rumours of consolidation and demutualisation in the life assurance market has fuelled demand for Teps from speculators hoping for a windfall.

However, falling interest rates and modest growth in world stock markets are likely to affect the returns policyholders can expect in the future.

There are concerns that the huge demand for second-hand policies has forced up prices



Joe Palmer will be taking a careful look at the Teps system and that projections for yields and maturity values given to investors should be scaled back. The PIA, whose chairman is Joe Palmer, has begun consulting the industry on how the projection rates for Teps should be set and it is likely to report on the issue next year.

A spokeswoman said: "We are keeping a watching brief on the issue. Market-makers have been lobbying for the industry to publicise the Teps market but we do not want to encourage this until we are sure that the system is working to customers' advantage."

Standard Life, the biggest name in UK life and pensions, is an outspoken critic of the Teps market and does not encourage policyholders to sell their stock on. A spokesman for Standard Life said: "We are uneasy about projection rates and do not want investors coming back to us in ten years' time because they are unhappy about the performance of their endowment policy."

Market-makers argue that they can offer policyholders up to 45 per cent more than insurance companies' surrender values, and that prices have not increased in the past two years.

David Carrington, sales and marketing director of PolicyPlus International and a member of the Association of Policy Market Makers, accused Standard Life of "arrogance". He said: "They cannot accept that the value of a policy might be different from the value that their own actuaries have calculated."

"The question of projection rates affects the whole of the financial services industry, not just Teps.

"We believe policyholders know what they are buying and are aware that the future is not guaranteed. You get a clearer idea of the value of a policy that has bonuses already attached than you do if you are buying a new one."

Railtrack deal for Logica

RAILTRACK has hired Logica on a £10 million two-year contract to ensure the rail utility is not hit by the millennium bug.

The software group is focusing on Railtrack's most pressing areas, including planning, timetable systems, track maintenance, scheduling and train management and monitoring.

The work programme also includes billing the train operators and fault databases.

Alan Forder of Logica said Railtrack was a vast undertaking, calling for fast work to the most unyielding of deadlines. Logica is also working with Railtrack's third-party suppliers of information systems.

Art and antiques sales soar in UK

By CLARE STEWART

SALES of art and antiques by leading UK dealers have soared in the last year. New figures from the British Antique Dealers' Association show that members' turnover has risen by 50 per cent to £565 million.

Bada has 375 members, including leading dealers such as Richard Green, Asprey & Garratt and S J Phillips. Half of the members reported an increase in sales, with picture dealers seeing the greatest sales increases.

Significant for the UK's role as an international art market was the finding that overseas buyers accounted for 56 per cent

Biotechnology firms seek code of practice

By PAUL DURMAN

THE biotechnology industry is planning to draw up a code of best practice in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the British Biotech controversy earlier this year.

British Biotech was accused of misleading investors because it failed to announce bad news emerging from drug trials, and to disclose adverse opinions from drug licensing regulators. The affair highlighted the tensions biotech firms can face when optimistic managements confront the differing obligations owed to regulators and to shareholders.

The Biotechnology Association (BIA) is trying to devise a voluntary code requiring member companies to ensure that their statements accurately reflect the state of development programmes. The code will also bring together many regulations by which they are already bound — including codes on corporate governance, the pharmaceutical industry code of good clinical and manufacturing practice and advertising standards.

The initiative from Robert Mansfield, BIA chairman, is partly a response to a Commons committee inquiry into the British Biotech debacle.

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- Lee Garsner - Director, Business Projects Team, Bank of England
- John Lee - Head of Policy, Bank of England
- Philip Crookes - Executive Consultant, IFCM, EMI UK
- David Webb - CAPS Business Adviser
- Colin Munnery and Mark Deane - Regional Infrastructure Business Managers, Lloyd's Bank Commercial Services

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THE SUNDAY TIMES ENTERPRISE NETWORK

EU paints a bleak picture for the London art market

Clare Stewart on a looming threat from Brussels to a British business worth £2.2bn a year

London's art dealers, galleries and auction houses have been busy making a point over the past ten days as *Asian Art in London*, a celebration of oriental art, came to a close over the weekend.



Julian Thompson, Sotheby's Asia co-chairman, left, and Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, at the Au Bak Ling collection

The doors also opened on a number of new exhibitions. At the Royal Academy until December 20, Ming and Qing dynasty porcelain is on show in the first public exhibition of works from the privately owned Au Bak Ling collection. The point being made by all of these events and the number of big-spending collectors who have flown into London this week, is not just that it was the place to be for anyone keen to see fabulous ceramics or exquisite jade.

economy in the form of spending in hotels, restaurants and shops when the high-rollers among collectors come to buy art and antiques. *Asian Art in London* comes at the end of what has been a good year for the UK art market with dealers and auction houses reporting strong demand particularly for the best quality items. Millions of pounds were spent at the Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair in June, a glittering event in the art market calendar that brings out celebrity buyers and big spenders in quantities.

Contemporary art was in particular demand in the summer with *GOD*, a work by Damien Hirst fetching a record price of £188,500 at Christie's, while other records were broken by works ranging from a painting by John Atkinson Grimshaw to the 1477 edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, printed by Caxton and sold for £4.6 million making it the world's most expensive book.

Last week at Phillips's sale of Chinese and Japanese ceramics, a number of lots overshoot their estimated prices spectacularly. A Fencui saucer dish, for example, expected to make £3000 to £5000 was sold for £32,000. But despite the hard evidence of money being spent, there are some sizeable clouds threatening to spoil London's art party. On top of concerns about the impact of economic problems worldwide, there is a more specific fear about an EU ruling due to take effect next year.

From July all works imported into the UK from countries outside the EU will be subject to VAT at 5 per cent, doubling the existing rate of 2.5 per cent. Innocuous as it may sound, the change has been described as a potential disaster for the thriving UK market. "It is another millennium bug," says Dan Klein, international executive director of Phillips.



Damien Hirst's work has been in demand this summer

An increasingly large proportion of the art and antiques sold in this country is imported. Dealers in oriental art, for example, import as much as 60 to 70 per cent, most of it from the Far East. The UK or more precisely London, with its concentration of dealers and salerooms, effectively serves as an international clearing house for the global art market.

While the art market is digesting the consequences of the increase in VAT on imports, it is also bracing itself for the introduction of another EU directive. *Droit de suite* is a levy on the resale of modern works of art, and applies to an artist's work for up to 70 years after their death. What this means is that every time a work is sold, the artist or their heirs, receive some of the proceeds.

This was first introduced in France and now applies in nine EU countries. The proposal now being considered by the Commission is to introduce a compulsory levy of 2 to 4 per cent on works. What worries some in the art market is that this will serve to limit rather than stimulate interest in an artist's work. Rather than pay a levy, work could be sold privately or outside the EU where *droit de suite* does not apply. The artist would not benefit and it could mean works leaving their country of origin, and being lost to national collections.

WORDWATCHING

- Answers from page 41
PROPYLAEUM
(b) The entrance structure, gateway, porch or vestibule, leading (especially) to a sacred enclosure. A famous example in ancient Greek architecture is the propylaeum on the Acropolis hill in Athens, leading to the temple area.
EPITAXY
(b) The mutual orientation of crystals of different species, when one crystal that grows on another is oriented by it and with respect to it. An example is the epitaxial overgrowth of an alkali halide on a cleavage plain of mica. This has a two-dimensional structural control: the halide mesh nearly coincides in shape and size with mica.
CULDEES
(a) Scottish and Irish monks, from the 8th century on. The name probably derives from the Irish *Ceile-de* a companion. Culdees seem to have been groups of anchorites, each group consisting of 13 members, on the analogy of Christ and 12 apostles. Except in Armagh, Culdees have been superseded by Canons in caring for the sick and poor.
PANNAG
(a) One of a list of trade items mentioned in Ezekiel 27, 17. Pannag was listed in the commerce of Judah and Israel with Tyre. It was probably a kind of sweetmeat or confection. It was a toponym, named after the place where it was made.
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 ... Rg2! threatening ... Rf6 mate and if 2 Rf5+ Ke8 3Rd4 Rg2+ 4Ke8 Rel checkmate

CHANGE ON WEEK

Table with exchange rates: US Dollar 1.6566 (-0.0091), German Mark 2.7975 (-0.0165), Exchange Index 100.6 (-0.7), Bank of England official close (4pm), FT 30 share 3434.5 (+138.0), FTSE 100 5717.5 (+254.3), New York Dow Jones 9159.55 (+239.98), Tokyo Nikkei Ave 14779.94 (+511.73)

Hot-footin' over the pond

Sound Stories
BBC2, 7.30pm
"I always wanted to be Ginger Rogers" says Barbara, a housewife and part-time taxi driver, but she has happily settled instead for Kicken Alice. This is an amateur dance group which hails from the Herefordshire-Shropshire border and is one of the best British practitioners of Appalachian step. So much so that it has been invited to the United States, where on Independence Day it will be the first British team to dance at the oldest Appalachian folk festival. As the dance originated in Britain (it was taken across the Atlantic by the early American settlers and gradually filtered back), the members of Kicken Alice are part of a long process of cross-fertilisation. We follow them on their journey to North Carolina, apprehensive about how their style of Appalachian step will be received by the Appalachians.



Peter Ustinov follows in Mark Twain's footsteps in Planet Ustinov (Ch 4, 8pm)

Planet Ustinov
Channel 4, 8.00pm
Sir Peter Ustinov may be 77 and shaky on his pins but this has not stopped him emulating Mark Twain a century ago and circling the world along the Equator. All for television, of course, which means that the journey is not quite as rigorous as it seems, though in Fiji, where he opens the series, the lack of more comfortable transport means that the portly sage has to be carried by six hefty locals in a precarious sedan chair. Ustinov calls on Fiji's prime minister and Colonel Rabuka, the man who led the military coup which got the country ejected from the Commonwealth, and does his modest bit to promote ethnic harmony among the native Fijians, the fast-growing Indian population. But the politics is lightly worn, punctuated by the Ustinov repertoire of accents and funny noises, from a taxi horn to Scottish pipes.

Amsterdam, or the confessions of a kerb crawler, for the chance to meet George Mc Coy. He is the Egon Ronay of the massive par-four, producing a guide to the best and the worst based on first-hand research and much else and being flattered by a young woman dressed as a nurse, so be it. Then there is Steve, a painter and decorator who fancies himself as a male escort. We follow him on a date with a 47-year-old divorcee looking for male company. The punchline is well worth waiting for.

Vice - The Sex Trade
ITV, 9.00pm
The second in a series whose title is self-explanatory focuses on men, whether they are trying to buy sex or trying to sell it or just checking out the quality. A grubby theme is leavened by humour, not necessarily intentional. It is almost worth sitting through the escapades of two Essex lads in

Witness: Acting Natural
Channel 4, 9.00pm
Naturism, we learn from this informative and snigger-free documentary, originated in Germany, helped along by notions of romantic nationalism, healthy bodies promoting healthy minds and Freudian attacks on prudery. By 1930, according to a Berlin newspaper, there were three million German naturists. Hitler soon put a stop to it but meanwhile naturism had spread to Britain. It has been here now for 75 years, though we have always been coy about taking off our clothes and most adherents still prefer to keep the activity secret. In recent years this has produced a split in the movement between traditional naturists and the more open and liberal nudists. Discussion of the implications for the naturist movement of paedophilia, introduces a more solemn note. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Managing Life
Radio 4, 8.00pm
Edi Stark spent several months in prison, so to speak, making this series and so far the investment of time and effort has brought fascinating results. There is nothing routine about these portraits of the grim reality behind the walls of Glenochil Jail in Scotland. Stark has provided several reasons to re-think our conventional attitude to prisoners. All the ones in the series are lifers and tonight the focus is their astonishing ability to get hold of drugs in whatever quantities seem desirable. The smuggling methods revealed here range from the distasteful to the bizarre, but whether the drugs are brought in subtly or by means of throwing a dead bird stuffed with drugs over the prison wall there seems little that can be done by way of prevention.

Analysis
Radio 4, 8.30pm
This is a programme that consistently serves as a response to those who say there is no longer any cerebral programming on Radio 4, my complaint being not that there is none but that there is not enough. However *Analysis* is always worth a listen because it contrives to be both intelligent and relevant. Tonight Ian Hargreaves tries to discover just how the Government intends to promote the family. Of course the issue is much broader than one of policy so *Analysis* will also ask a more important and fundamental question which gets at the underlying Government assumption: even if a matrimonial rearrangement is possible, is it desirable? Given the destructive intervention of many families the question is an important one. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)
6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening, 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce, 6.15 Scott 6.30 Lamacz Live with Mary Anne Hobbs 12.00 The Breakfast 2.00am GIVE WARREN 4.00 Scott Mills

BBC WORLD SERVICE
5.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Spot: One of Our 7.30 The Village Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Pests for Thought 8.15 Pop on the Line 9.00 News; (848 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Record News 9.30 Westway Access 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 On Screen 11.00 News 11.30 Jazz 12.00pm News 12.05 World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Chill Out 3.00 World News; (848 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 Electronic Africa 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 Insight; (848 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Brain of Britain 1998; (848 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack: Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Heritage 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Joseph 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack: Hit List 12.00am Newsweek 12.30 Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Wood, Guitars and Brass 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 The Idea of the City 4.00 The World Today

RADIO 2 (BBC)
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Special 8.30 The New Jazz Standalone. New four-part series exploring jazz from the Rock 'n' Roll Years 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Katrina Leschichan 3.00am Alex Lester

CLASSIC FM
6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates 6.00 Harry Kelly, The Hall of Fame. He and the Week 6.30 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites 2.00 Concerto, Talleferro (Concerto for Harp and Orchestra) 3.00 James Cripp. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Brain of Britain 1998; (848 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack: Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Heritage 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Joseph 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack: Hit List 12.00am Newsweek 12.30 Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Wood, Guitars and Brass 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 The Idea of the City 4.00 The World Today

RADIO 3 (BBC)
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 6.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive 4.00 News Extra. Presented by David Meikel 7.30 Family Affairs. Series reviewing famous sporting families 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Full commentary on the Premiership clash between Everton and Newcastle 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night with Gary Robertson

TALK RADIO
5.00am Bill Overton 6.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chisham 12.00 Louise Kelly 2.00pm News Focusam 4.00 9.45 (FM) The Interesting Narrative 9.45 (FM) Daily Service 10.00 Women's Hour with Martha Kearney 11.00 East End Live 11.30 Newsweek 12.00 (FM) News 12.00pm News and Yours 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Revised Britain Quiz 2.00 The Archers (r) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Life's Little Miracles (r) 3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444 3.30 Speakers' Corner (1/4) (r)

RADIO 4
5.30 (LW) Test Match Special: Australia v England 5.30am (FM) World News Shipping Forecast 6.00 (FM only until 7.00am) Today 9.00am The Week: Hozler by Jeremy Paumon 9.45 (FM) The Interesting Narrative 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Women's Hour with Martha Kearney 11.00 East End Live 11.30 Newsweek 12.00 (FM) News 12.00pm News and Yours 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Revised Britain Quiz 2.00 The Archers (r) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Life's Little Miracles (r) 3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444 3.30 Speakers' Corner (1/4) (r)

VIRGIN
6.30am Chris Evans 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamel Scott 7.30 Jane Lee Grales 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Marlett 4.30 Jeremy Clark

RADIO 5
6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes 9.00 Musicworks with Penny Gore. Includes Mozart (Six German Dances, K600); Bach (Preludes and Fugues Nos 1-4, 48) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Barbara Hendricks 11.00 Sound Stories with Donald Macleod 12.00 Composer of the Week: Joseph 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall. Christian Tetzlaff, violin 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Symphony Orchestra under Pinchas Steinberg and Andrew Davis, Artur Pizarro, piano, Wagner (Good Friday Music, Parsifal); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor); Stravinsky (Plus l'Idole, Suite for Piano) 4.00 Opera in Action with Ruth Mackenzie 4.45 Music Machine with Vesty Sharp

RADIO 6
5.30 (LW) Test Match Special: Australia v England 5.30am (FM) World News Shipping Forecast 6.00 (FM only until 7.00am) Today 9.00am The Week: Hozler by Jeremy Paumon 9.45 (FM) The Interesting Narrative 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Women's Hour with Martha Kearney 11.00 East End Live 11.30 Newsweek 12.00 (FM) News 12.00pm News and Yours 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Revised Britain Quiz 2.00 The Archers (r) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Life's Little Miracles (r) 3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444 3.30 Speakers' Corner (1/4) (r)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 649; LW 128 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1079. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McEwan.

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ATHLETICS Hemery waits on Wembley decision

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent... Hemery is seeking international status...

Media mogul is human being: shock horror

Channel 4's The Real... documentary has made a specialty of taking famous people... Murdoch's progress in the United Kingdom...

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

Sunday Times, he had faced his employer down in a battle of silences on the telephone... Murdoch's progress in the United Kingdom...

But none of this mattered. The series is packed with amusing performances... Murdoch's progress in the United Kingdom...

Table of TV listings for Channel 4, including programs like Business Breakfast, The Big Breakfast, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for BBC2, including programs like Breakfast Show, The Arts and Crafts Hour, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for HTV WEST, including programs like ITN Morning News, GMYTV, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for CENTRAL, including programs like ITN Morning News, GMYTV, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for CHANNEL 4, including programs like Sesame Street, The Big Breakfast, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for CHANNEL 5, including programs like News and Sport, WideWorld, and various news and entertainment shows.

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes... The numbers after programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming...

Table of TV listings for SKY 1, including programs like The Simpsons, The Simpsons Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for SKY MOVIE MAX, including programs like The Untouchables, The Untouchables Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for SKY CINEMA, including programs like The Untouchables, The Untouchables Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for SKY SPORTS, including programs like World Pool Masters, World Snooker, and various sports events.

Table of TV listings for SKY PREMIER, including programs like The Untouchables, The Untouchables Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for SKY SPORTS 2, including programs like World Pool Masters, World Snooker, and various sports events.

SATELLITE AND CABLE



Steve Keane features in the famous car chase scene in the classic 1960s thriller Filmbait (Sky Cinema, 10pm)

Table of TV listings for TROUBLE, including programs like California Dreams, The New Class, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for HOME & LEISURE, including programs like The Untouchables, The Untouchables Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for CARLTON FOOD [CABLE], including programs like The Untouchables, The Untouchables Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table of TV listings for ANIMAL PLANET, including programs like The Untouchables, The Untouchables Movie, and various news and entertainment shows.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



EUROPE 47 Roger Bootle on why size doesn't matter

BUSINESS

DEALERS 50 Brussels paints bleak picture for art market

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23 1998

Funds wrangle may close UK biotech investor

By Paul Durman

ROTHSCHILD Bioscience Unit (RBU), the leading British investor in the biotechnology industry, is facing possible closure because of a wrangle over the merger of two investment funds.

Biotechnology Investments Limited (BIL) is understood to be planning to replace the unit as its investment adviser, which would deprive

Rothschild Asset Management of £3 million in fees. On its own, the smaller International Biotechnology Trust (IBT) would be unable to support the estimated £2.5 million cost of running the RBU, which employs about 20 scientists and analysts.

The closure of the RBU would be a blow to the legacy of the late Victor Rothschild, the former chairman of NIM Rothschild who was

among the first to spot the commercial significance of advances in molecular biology and biochemistry.

Jeremy Curmuck Cook, head of the RBU, would not comment on the suggestion that he is preparing to leave Rothschild's after 11 years.

The crisis at the RBU has arisen out of a long-running attempt to merge the Guernsey-based BIL, which is chaired by Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, with IBT, a UK

investment trust whose chairman is John Green-Armytage.

Both funds have performed badly in the last two years, not helped by their investments in Biocompatibles International, the medical coatings company, chaired by Mr Curmuck Cook, which has lost more than 90 per cent of its peak value of £1 billion.

Industry critics believe that RBU's close involvement with investment companies, often with board representation, restricts its ability to realise investments effectively. Mr Curmuck Cook argues that high-risk biotech investments can only be judged over several years.

BIL's Guernsey domicile and a capital structure dominated by preference shares make it unattractive to many potential investors. But the problems in the UK biotech market have caused the discount on IBT's shares to widen to more than 40 per cent, hampering a merger deal.

Negotiations have also been marred by disagreements over who should have the upper hand in the combined fund. Although BIL is

much bigger, with net assets still worth £160 million, IBT's directors have much more healthcare experience than the Guernsey residents who dominate BIL's board.

The disputes eventually led BIL to propose seeking another adviser, thus destabilising the relationship between IBT and the unit. Mr Curmuck Cook has not replaced senior managers who have recently departed.

Patriot poised to check out of Britain

By Dominic Walsh

PATRIOT American Hospitality, the aggressive US hotel investor, is considering a sale of its UK assets, signalling the end of a frenzied drive by US real estate investment trusts (REITs) to pick up British properties.

Wall Street sources believe that, after the collapse of its share price and severe funding problems, Patriot may be seeking to sell Arcadian, the Surrey hotel operator it acquired in January for £92 million. Including debt and its share of joint ventures, the business is worth close to £200 million.

Industry sources believe that Robert Breare, the Arcadian chief executive and now president of Patriot's European division, is keen to buy back the company. He is known to have been contacted by City institutions willing to back such a move and is believed to have indicated his interest to Patriot.

Arcadian comprises 11 hotels in Britain and one in France as well as a 50-50 joint venture with Sir Terence Conran to redevelop the Great Eastern Hotel in the City of London.

But the jewel in the Arcadian crown is the Malmesbury brand, which Mr Breare

wants to roll out across Europe's gateway cities. So far it has just five properties open or under development - in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester and Leeds - but sites in London, Birmingham and Paris are under negotiation, while Frankfurt, Brussels, Amsterdam, Milan and Madrid have all been targeted.

Patriot's decision to review its European development follows a disastrous summer, during which its share price has dived by 75 per cent. When it reported third-quarter results this month, Paul Nussbaum, chairman and chief executive of Patriot, admitted that its recent achievements had been "greatly diminished by significant world events, including a global credit crunch that has crippled the world's debt markets and temporarily delayed certain of our debt transactions".

Ironically, Arcadian was one of its best-performing divisions in the quarter. Malmesbury reported a 15.2 per cent rise in revenue per available room while its historic-style hotels advanced by 9.3 per cent. Patriot's decline has in part been a result of the decision by Congress to abolish the tax-efficient status of "paired-share"

REITs, principally Patriot, Starwood and Meditrust. Marriott and Hilton Hotels Corporation had lobbied for the change, claiming that the paired-share REITs enjoyed an unfair advantage over normal hotel companies.

The three REITs, collectively valued at \$4.5 billion (£2.8 billion) at the end of 1996, used this advantage to sign deals worth \$2.8 billion during 1997 alone. While Starwood snapped up IIT, owner of Sheraton Hotels, Patriot acquired the Westin and Wyndham chains. Wyndham is one of the brands it had pledged to develop across Europe and any deal with Mr Breare is likely to include a franchise or development agreement allowing the US group to expand the Wyndham brand without any financial exposure.

As recently as early summer, Patriot displayed an apparently insatiable appetite for deals, narrowly losing out to Bass in the race for Inter-Continental Hotels and looking closely at the likes of the Savoy Group, Cliveden, the Grosvenor House and Gleneagles before deciding not to bid.

But its recent woes mean its funds have dried up and the sale of its European assets may be forced upon it as it seeks to solve the problem of the \$1 billion-plus of debt repayment it faces over the next six months.



A management team led by Sarah Elton, above, managing director, is buying out Smythson, the upmarket stationers that is a favourite of royalty and film stars, from John Menzies for about £3 million. Smythson, which holds warrants from the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince of Wales, has shops on Bond Street, Sloane Street, within Harvey Nichols and Selfridges and at Heathrow Terminal 4. The sale comes as part of the John Menzies exit from retail business.

Retailers braced for gloomy Christmas

By Manu Costello and Dominic Walsh

RETAILERS are bracing themselves for what could be the worst Christmas in two decades, according to research published today.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, estimates that sales in November will be just 0.8 per cent higher than last year at £16.7 billion, while December's sales will reach £20.5 billion - a rise of just less than 3 per cent. It also forecasts that re-

tailers will have about £1.6 billion of excess stock in the run-up to Christmas.

"This still represents growth on earlier years, but the rate of expansion is much lower than our major retail companies have come to expect," says the report. "Christmas has come to dominate the fortunes of many store groups, but this year will see a much more subdued role, with the lowest proportion of spending occurring over the period for two decades."

These forecasts are supported

by Deloitte & Touche's annual survey, which found both retailers and consumers to be cautious in the build-up to the festive season. Although just 12 per cent of retailers are expecting a drop in turnover, that is three times as many as last year. On average, retailers expect sales to rise by between 1 per cent and 3 per cent.

The recent interest rate cuts are likely to improve the retail outlook, although Verdict believes that "a shift in consumer confidence will come too late

to bring seasonal cheer to retailers".

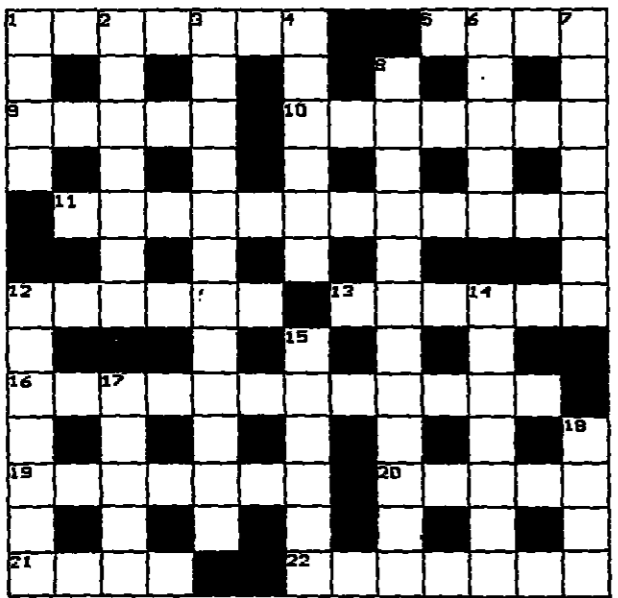
While food and convenience lines such as toiletries and newspapers are not expected to see a downturn, fashion and household goods retailers are thought to be particularly vulnerable.

Consumers may benefit from the retailers' woes, however, as the over-ordered stocks will need to be offloaded, perhaps prompting dramatic reductions in the January sales. Trends show con-

sumers are leaving spending later and later, with many waiting for price markdowns.

The figures come in the wake of the publication last week of official figures showing that retail sales were down 0.4 per cent between September and October, with the annual rate of growth at 1 per cent, the lowest since January 1996. Verdict concludes: "Such spending caution, if prolonged, could precipitate the very recessions that consumers fear."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1570

ACROSS

- 1 Conspirator; chart printer (7)
2 Assist (4)
9 Filled pleat (5)
10 Speculative effort (7)
11 Non-deliberate killing (12)
12 Trees eg of Lebanon (6)
13 Go past in steady flow (6)
16 Drink-fuelled boldness (5,7)
19 Type of pudding, of minister (7)
20 Conscious (of) (5)
21 Narrative poems; sounds like be idle (4)
22 Stronghold (7)

DOWN

- 1 A wine; an anchorage (4)
2 Field of fruit (7)
3 Clue-following party game (8,4)
4 Uncover (6)
6 Main force of blow (one bears) (5)
7 A proved statement (maths.) (7)
8 Chivalrous adventurer (6,6)
12 Will supplement (7)
14 Blake's green and pleasant land (7)
15 Sublime; in verse (6)
17 A fabric; a cat (5)
18 Wooded hollow (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1569

- ACROSS: 1 Succeeded 5 Cadre 8 Fluke 9 Montage
10 Sunday school 12 Allots 14 Caddie 17 Put the boot in
21 Ordinal 22 Tense 23 Gusto 24 Widower
DOWN: 1 Soft soap 2 Churn 3 Elegant 4 Demise 5 Couch
6 Diamond 7 Ewer 11 Reindeer 13 Lourdes 15 Aborted
16 Mellow 18 Tango 19 Throw 20 Long

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Bankers Trust in merger vote

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Bankers Trust board met yesterday to vote on the \$9 billion (£5.5 billion) merger with Deutschebank.

Today's announcement is expected to give Germany's largest bank the US presence it has been craving for the past year. The Frankfurt-based bank that owns Morgan Grenfell in London is believed to be offering \$90 per Bankers Trust share. Bankers Trust shares climbed on Friday from \$72 to \$77.

The takeover could have serious implications for Bankers Trust operations in London. BT Alex Brown, its brokerage,

overlaps heavily with Morgan Grenfell, provoking fears in the City that a takeover would lead to a shake-out comparable with the merger between Swiss Bank Corporation and UBS. That deal disposed of many UBS jobs and Bankers Trust may be forced to cut staff in a Deutsche merger.

Alternatively, some BT Alex Brown executives could push for a buyout or a spin-off, so the brokerage would survive with fewer redundancies. Deutsche earlier courted JP Morgan and Lehman Brothers to compete with Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, who are threatening Deutsche's position on its German home turf.

GRE to consider £3bn sale

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the insurance company, is this week expected to confirm that it is considering a £3 billion takeover sale of the company after receiving approaches from a string of suitors (Dominic Walsh writes).

The wave of consolidation among insurers has sparked interest in GRE from the likes of AXA-UAP and AGF, both from France. Germany's Allianz and AIG of the US.

Pressure for a deal is thought to have come from institutional shareholders unhappy at GRE's recent performance. Last month its shares traded at 230p, their lowest since 1995. In recent weeks, speculation over a possible merger has seen a rally to 308p.

EU steelmakers' action stirs fresh rift with US

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

AN anti-dumping complaint to be filed in Brussels today by European steel producers will worsen the bubbling trade row between the US and the European Union and cause a new headache for EU Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert.

Eurofer, the European steel lobby group, is filing a complaint with the European Commission over cheap steel imports from Taiwan, India, Iran, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and South Africa. The action concerns imports of hot-rolled coil, a product that has plunged 30 per cent in price, threatening European producers, including



Moffat eye on Washington

British Steel, which this week gave warning of losses. The flood of cheap product stems from the financial problems of Asian and East Euro-

pean producers who are desperate for hard currency. But British Steel, led by Sir Brian Moffat, reckons that a 15 per cent collapse in the price over the last 6-8 weeks may have been caused by events in Washington, rather than Asia.

US steel producers are raging about Asian and Russian dumping of hot-rolled coil and both employer and union bodies are clamouring for anti-dumping duties to avoid job losses. Complaints have been filed against Russia, Brazil and Japan and Europeans fear that Asian steel that was headed for the US will now be looking for a home in Europe. One steel industry source said: "Diverted Asian steel has not kicked in yet but it will do so soon."

مكتبة من الأصيل

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